



SHOW ME

NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP

A PROGRAM OF THE MISSOURI FERTILIZER CONTROL BOARD



What is?

Show-Me Nutrient Stewardship Program?

Increasing crop and forage production and limiting fertilizer and chemical runoff into streams and groundwater is more important than ever as farmers strive to meet the needs of a growing population, while maintaining soil and water quality and improving their farm's sustainability.

In 2018, stakeholders within the state's agricultural industry, along with The Nature Conservancy collaborated to launch a 4R program in Missouri. 4R focuses on nutrient (fertilizer) management and conservation practices to improve soil health while decreasing runoff and increasing profitability. The 4Rs refer to fertilizer from the right source, at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place.

The 4R program provides information and resources for farmers and their advisers as they strive to achieve productive, economic, and environmental goals using an approach focused on sustainability. Farmers want to do what is best for maintaining proper soil health and the 4R program has been developed to help them do exactly that. By focusing on the four 'rights,' farmers can identify improvements in fertilizing each specific crop in each specific field and continue to be good stewards of the soil.

An aerial photograph of a tractor pulling a spray rig across a vast green field. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, hazy glow and long shadows across the rows of crops. The tractor is positioned in the center of the frame, moving away from the viewer.

The agriculture industry is challenged with the task of producing more food than ever before with continuous improvement of soil stewardship. Farmers are the decision-makers when it comes to nutrient management, and the 4R program is designed to empower farmers through educational resources.

A close-up aerial view of a green field, showing the texture of the crops and the shadows cast by the rows.

Mission & Vision

Improved Soil Productivity & Sustainability is the SMNS Focus

Fertilizers provide the nutrients necessary to improve and maintain soil fertility by replacing the nutrients removed by harvested crops and forages, and they are a primary component of a sustainable crop production system. As industry representatives and stakeholders, we recognize the need to efficiently utilize the nutrients fertilizers provide. Nutrient stewardship is an innovative and science-based approach offering enhanced environmental protection, increased production and quality, increased farmer profitability, and improved soil productivity and sustainability. Show-Me Nutrient Stewardship embraces the 4R Nutrient Stewardship concept to use the right nutrient source, at the right rate, the right time, and in the right place to support nutrient needs of crops and forages.

To be sustainable, nutrient use must support cropping systems providing economic, social, and environmental benefits. Three goals within the initiative include: **promoting the 4Rs as a recognizable strategy for economic, social, and environmental sustainability; expanding the implementation of nutrient stewardship practices on the farm; and increasing the awareness of efforts to boost adoption of the 4Rs and other nutrient stewardship practices among the general public and policy developers statewide.**

As a Partner

Improved Soil Productivity & Sustainability is Our Focus

Support of These Initiatives Means:

- Embracing nutrient stewardship and the 4R framework within our organization and our messaging as a recognizable strategy for economic, social, and environmental sustainability
- Creating awareness and providing outreach for the initiative within our organization, to our stakeholders, to policy developers, and to the public, and as applicable
- Implementing services or practices consistent with the 4R scientific principles
- Use concepts and terminology consistent with defined 4R scientific principles and evolving standards
- Balance consideration of the three areas of sustainability – economic, social, and environmental
- Provide site-specific recommendations addressing specific regional soil, climate, and operational issues
- Balance nutrition to ensure that N, P, K, secondary nutrients, and micro-nutrients are in adequate supply to meet crop production expectations
- Use appropriate tools such as soil testing, tissue testing, nutrient budgeting, and knowledge of crop nutrient uptake demand dynamics to assess nutrient requirements
- Consider all sources of nutrients (fertilizer, soil organic matter, manure, irrigation water, crop residual, etc.) during the planning process
- Comply with applicable nutrient management regulations in your region or community
- Measure or evaluate the effectiveness of selected BMPs and use on farm or community-based assessments to support continuous improvement in nutrient use efficiency and effectiveness to achieve crop yields and quality
- Adapt to changes in proven crop production and soil and water technologies (e.g. fertilizer, seed, equipment, etc.), which support goals for economic, environmental, and social progress
- Provide and maintain clear documentation of the nutrient management plan and its implementation



WEBSITE

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Get to Know...

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“A grounded approach to nutrient management”

As an alternative to the increased regulations placed on farmers and fertilizer distributors in other states, the Missouri Fertilizer Control Board supports Missouri’s “Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy” and promotes sustainable farming practices to maintain a grounded approach to nutrient management.

Though charged with administration and enforcement of the Missouri Fertilizer Law, our non-regulatory efforts include nutrient research, education, and outreach programs that ensure the adoption and implementation of nutrient best management practices.

These practices drive our Show-Me Nutrient Stewardship program where we seek to promote voluntary participation in the 4R program.

These principles of the 4R program including using fertilizer:

- *from the right source,*
- *at the right rate,*
- *at the right time, and*
- *in the right place*

When used together, the 4Rs can help improve agricultural productivity and maintain our soil resources for generations to come.

It is well documented that crop and forage yields increase with better nutrient and soil management. Therefore, efforts are underway statewide to educate ag retailers and producers on the benefits of these principles and certify that the nutrients available to our farming communities meet statewide nutrient quality standards.

If you would like to become a partnering organization or producer, please contact Andrea Rice, Director of Research, Education, and Outreach, at arice@mofcb.com or 573-636-6131. More information is also available at mofcb.com/4r/



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Expanding Implementation of Nutrient Stewardship Practices on the Farm. Together.

SHOW-ME NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This agreement between

Company/Contact Name

and the Show-Me Nutrient Stewardship Program verifies the parties have agreed to join together as Partners and will conduct business in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. As agricultural industry representatives and stakeholders, we support the implementation of nutrient stewardship practices including the 4Rs. (Support points listed inside the Partnership Packet).

We agree to support the implementation of the Show-Me Nutrient Stewardship Program and will serve as a partner of the organization.

Please Provide 2-3 Sentences on Why Your Organization Supports the Show-Me Nutrient Stewardship Program

Please Print Company Name and Contact Information Below

Company/Contact Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

Please Print Name

Signature

Date

Want to sign up online?

Visit www.mofcb.com and click on PARTNER WITH SMNS