4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program

Western Lake Erie Basin

Andrew Allman, Nutrient Stewardship Council Executive Director
Western Lake Erie Basin
Cumulative Impacts

An algae bloom has made this area potentially unsafe for water contact. Avoid direct contact with visible surface scum.
Private Third Party Auditor

Nutrient Service Providers

Voluntary
Why would Nutrient Service Providers support the Program?

- It’s the right thing to do!
- Reassurance to friends, neighbors, community and customers.
- Supports finding solutions to nutrient run-off reduction.
- Cleaner Water!
Environmental Relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edge of Field</th>
<th>Watershed</th>
<th>Lake Erie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image of field with a structure" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image of a grassy field" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image of Lake Erie with a boat" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building Relationships can Scale Conservation
Program Governance

- **Nutrient Stewardship Council (NSC):**
  - Agricultural Business – 5 members, including 1 active producer
  - Government – 2 members
  - Environmental Non-governmental organization – 2 members
  - Universities/Researchers – 2 members

- **NSC 4R Program Certification Sub-Committee**

- **4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program Advisory Committee**
4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program
Advisory Committee
Program Process

1. Application & Fee to Program Administrator

2. After Conflict of Interest is complete, contract with Approved 4R Auditor

3. Audit Planning or Progress Report Requested

4. Onsite or Remote Audit, First Auditor Invoice

5. Audit Reporting to NSP & Program Administrator

6. Corrective Action Procedure agreed on between Auditor & NSP

7. Certification Decision

8. Post-Certification Actions & Final Auditor Invoice
Program Audit Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audit Year</th>
<th># Requirements</th>
<th># Requirements (Cumulative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 1
Onsite audit always required

Year 2
Onsite Audit in the first certification cycle, possible remote Audit in later certification cycles

Year 3
Remote audit possible for NSPs that have performed well in previous years.
1. Certified Professional
2. Initial and ongoing trainings for staff
3. Provide 4R materials for all growers/customers
4. Sponsor trainings for growers/customers
Monitoring and Implementation

1. Records of grower/customers farms, acres and applicable watersheds

2. Records of all recommendations and applications

3. Records of written agreements signed by growers/customers that attest to their support of 4R nutrient stewardship
1. GIS Field mapping
2. Cropping History
3. Soil Tests – 4 year minimum interval
4. Nutrient Management Recommendations – all sources

Nutrient Recommendations
Nutrient Application

1. Variable rate technology
2. Supplies records to grower/customer
3. Annual calibration of equipment
4. Does not recommend or apply if 50% chance of rainfall event involving an inch or more of rain beginning in next 12 hours
5. Does not apply to frozen or snow-covered ground
6. Follows minimum setbacks from sensitive areas
16 Certified
50 In Process
Over 1.1 million acres covered
Over 3,000 farm clients served
Take Action - Process

- Call Andrew Allman – OABA
- Pre-Audit visit – Jim Lake
- Audit
- Corrective Action Plan
- 4R Certified
Triple Bottom Line 5-year Evaluation

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service

$1.25 Million
Who has funded the development of the 4R Certification Program?
Continual Review of the Standard
4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program

Western Lake Erie Basin

www.4Rcertified.org

aallman@oaba.net

Andrew Allman, Nutrient Stewardship Council Executive Director