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Using 4R Nutrient Stewardship to Optimize Soil and Plant Health

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The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Framework helps farmers achieve cropping system goals such as increased production, increased farmer profitability, enhanced environmental protection and improved sustainability, through consideration of the right source of fertilizer applied at the right rate, at the right time and in the right place. Making the most effective and efficient 4R decisions requires the farmer and their trusted consultants to examine soil physical, chemical, and biological characteristics, site characteristics like waterways and slope of a field, crop system goals and practices, and weather. Understanding how 4R decisions fit in a whole crop production system will optimize the economic, environmental, and social outcomes for a farmer.