



## Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program



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### Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council Certifies Nutrien Ag Solutions Facility in Big Lake

**Big Lake, MN** – Members of the Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council (MNSC) recently recognized the Nutrien Ag Solutions facility in Big Lake as the first agricultural retail facility in Minnesota to be 4R certified. Leadership from the MNSC and Nutrien Ag Solutions joined together for a ceremony in Big Lake on September 27<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the occasion.

“Minnesota agriculture is determined to build capacity to demonstrate our activities to preserve and improve water quality. Everyone can play a role to protect water resources in Minnesota and we commend the Nutrien Ag Solutions team on this accomplishment,” stated Patrick Murray, the Executive Director of the MNSC and the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers.

The MNSC is led by the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) and includes agricultural organizations, companies, universities, and government agencies to support the voluntary 4R nutrient stewardship certification program for agricultural retailers and nutrient service providers throughout Minnesota.

“We are thrilled to see the Nutrien Ag Solutions facility in Big Lake be officially certified by the MNSC. We launched this certification program to provide transparency, set industry standards, and educate both nutrient service providers and farmers on 4R practices that optimize profitability and reduce nutrient losses to the environment,” said Adam Herges, MNSC Council Chair and Senior Sustainability Agronomist with The Mosaic Company.

Since 2016, Minnesota’s agricultural community has been developing a proactive and responsible commitment to reducing nutrient losses in Minnesota. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program for agricultural retailers is a voluntary, industry-led certification program consisting of 32 science-based best management practices and nutrient standards.

“We are honored to be the first agricultural retailer to be 4R certified by the MNSC in Minnesota,” stated Andy Oeding, Division Marketing Manager for Nutrien Ag Solutions and a MNSC Council Member. “Our Big Lake facility started out as one of the first pilot facilities to participate in this program and we are gratified to see this certification come to fruition.”



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The 4R approach provides a science-based framework for plant nutrition management and sustained crop production, while considering specific individual farms' needs. The certification program provides 4R industry standards for ag retailers and transparency with the public into how agriculture is playing a role in improving water quality and protecting water resources.

“Land and water stewardship can restore health to our food systems. The 4R program is fostering innovations in technology and together we can secure healthy food and clean water without sacrificing the environment,” commented Leif Fixen, Agriculture Strategy Manager at the Nature Conservancy and a MNSC Council Member.

Ag retailers participating in the program will be audited on 4R industry standards and practices by trained third-party auditors. The certification program is governed by the 11-member MNSC and administered by MCPR. Within the MNSC, an advisory committee comprised of 26 companies and organizations will provide recommendations for improving the program.

This program and adoption of 4R science-based best practices will:

- Increase grower profitability by optimizing fertilizer efficiency
- Strengthen the relationships between nutrient service providers and grower customers
- Achieve higher crop yields
- Preserve natural ecosystems by growing more on less land
- Support state and nation-wide efforts to reduce nutrient runoff
- Help safeguard drinking water supplies

If you have questions about the program, please contact:

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