



1020 Innovation Lane

Mankato, Minnesota 56001

<https://mcpr-cca.org/minnesota-4r-nutrient-stewardship-certification-program/>

CALL FOR 4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AUDITORS

The Minnesota Nutrient Stewardship Council, on behalf of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program, seeks to contract with consultants as 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program Auditors.

The Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program was officially launched in 2020. This approach provides a science-based framework for plant nutrition, sustained crop production, and reduced risk to the environment, while considering specific individual farms' needs. The certification program will provide 4R industry standards for agricultural retailers and transparency with the public of how agriculture is playing a role in improving water quality and protecting water resources.

Details regarding qualifications are listed on page two of this posting. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, a conflict of interest declaration form, and a current resume to:

Email: emma@mcpr-cca.org

Subject Line: Auditor - 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program

Mail: Minnesota Crop Production Retailers, Attn: Emma Haydock
1020 Innovation Lane, Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Letters of interest will be accepted at any time. More information and materials are available on the MCPR website.

Background

The 4Rs of Nutrient Stewardship refer to using the Right Source of nutrients at the Right Rate and Right Time in the Right Place. 4R Nutrient Stewardship provides a science-based framework for plant nutrition management while also considering site-specific needs of a particular farm.

In creating the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program, the 4R Advisory Committee has sought to provide guidance and direction for a consistent, recognized certification program for agricultural retailers and agricultural service providers to help ensure that 4R nutrient sustainability goals are adopted and lead to long-term positive impacts on water quality in Minnesota.

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Standards are based on the best available science for nutrient recommendations and application and encourage the adoption of 4R Nutrient Stewardship. The Standards also include education and record keeping components to ensure that new practices related to nutrient stewardship are adopted by nutrient service providers and shared with their grower customers.

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Standards apply to nutrient service providers, including agricultural retailers and agricultural service providers. Having a third-party auditor evaluate the implementation of the 4R Standards provides immediate feedback for the nutrient service provider and gives credibility to the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program.

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program (NSCP) is governed and guided by the Minnesota Nutrient Stewardship Council (MNSC), a diverse set of stakeholders from business, government, university and non-governmental sectors with a common goal of maintaining agricultural productivity while also improving the quality of Minnesota's waters and those downstream. The program is administered by Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR).

Position Duties

- Conduct on-site audits based on the 4R audit requirements and provide training of nutrient service providers in Minnesota - **please provide preference of region in letter of interest.**
- Create audit report packages for submission to nutrient service providers and the MNSC.
- Review Corrective Action Plans submitted by nutrient service providers, as necessary.
- Communicate clearly, both orally and in written form, and in an unbiased and ethical manner with nutrient service providers and the MNSC.
- Travel to nutrient service provider locations required.
- Work cooperatively with nutrient service providers, 4R Coordinator, and MNSC members.
- Make comprehensive and consistent decisions while reviewing audit data, both onsite and during the audit report compilation phase.
- Provide complete, prompt deliverables within the timelines of the audit process.
- Function productively as a member or leader of a work team.

Qualifications

Education and Experience

Minimum:

- Associate degree in agriculture, agronomy, plant science, or a related field from an accredited college or university.
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience in the agricultural sector;
 - OR an equivalent combination of education and work experience that demonstrates the knowledge and skills required for the role.

Preferred:

- Experience conducting third party audits in the context of agriculture or environmental sustainability.
- Demonstrated knowledge of nutrient management and 4R Nutrient Stewardship.
- Certified Crop Adviser in good standing.
- Other related and current professional certificates.

It is preferred candidates be located in Minnesota. Contract position noted.

Questions?

Contact Emma Haydock, 4R Coordinator and CCA Administrator at Minnesota Crop Production Retailers, at (507) 719-4899 or emma@mcpr-cca.org.

Additional information about the principles and practices of 4R nutrient stewardship can be found online at: <https://mcpr-cca.org/minnesota-4r-nutrient-stewardship-certification-program/>.