



**FERTILIZER CANADA**

**FERTILISANTS CANADA**

907 – 350 Sparks, Ottawa ON K1R 7S8

T (613) 230-2600 | F (613) 230-5142

[info@fertilizercanada.ca](mailto:info@fertilizercanada.ca)

[fertilizercanada.ca](http://fertilizercanada.ca) | [fertilisantscanada.ca](http://fertilisantscanada.ca)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 9, 2020**

### **Ontario's agriculture industry continues to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable food production through the 4R Certification program**

**Ottawa, ON** – As spring seeding quickly approaches and we continue to tackle the challenges associated with COVID-19, Fertilizer Canada assures that agri retail businesses will continue to provide their grower customers with essential crop nutrients. We are pleased to share that throughout the winter months, the Ontario agricultural industry has demonstrated its continued commitment to sustainable food production by almost doubling the number of 4R Certified facilities in the province.

“With the COVID-19 pandemic impacting all aspects of daily life, we are confident that Canada’s fertilizer industry is demonstrating its adaptability to meet not only the needs of its customers, but any worker along the supply chain. Farmers and producers will undoubtedly play a leading role in Canada’s economic recovery in the coming months,” said Garth Whyte, President and CEO at Fertilizer Canada.

This time of year is critical for agri-retailers as they supply nutrient inputs and help grower customers implement nutrient management plans. Becoming a 4R Certified agri-retailer ensures that those recommendations and applications are not only following the most up-to-date guidelines, but that science-based best management practices (BMPs) for sustainable on-farm nutrient management are applied. These practices optimize nutrient uptake to maximize yields and financial prosperity, while reducing nutrient run-off to improve the long-term quality of water bodies associated with agricultural production areas.

There are currently 16 Southwestern Ontario agri-retail facilities that have completed and passed the 4R Certification audit to become 4R Certified.

The agri-retail facilities are:

- AGRIS Co-operative (Cottam, Dutton, Stoney Point, Thamesville, Tupperville, Wheatley)
- FS PARTNERS (Ayr, Delhi, Drayton)
- Settingertons (Cottam)
- Sylvite Agri Services (Blenheim, Kent Bridge, Mitchell, Norwich, Putnam, Silverhill)



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The 4R Certification program continues to gain steam with a total of 1,711 growers in South western Ontario who are positively impacted by 4R Certified agri- retailer. This translates to 429,566 acres, accounting to approximately 10% of Southwestern Ontario’s total crop land. With 31 full-service agri-retail locations that have completed a pre-audit in Western Ontario, 26 of those locations are located within Lake Erie watershed.

The program is funded and guided by a 4R Ontario Steering Committee comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders from industry, government, conservation authorities and grower organizations including Fertilizer Canada, the Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA), Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO), the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) and Conservation Ontario.

“The Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA) sincerely congratulates the 16 agri-retail facilities that have achieved their 4R Certification,” said Dave Bутtenham, CEO of OABA. “Their commitment of time, resources and expertise to achieve 4R Certification is a very clear indication that Ontario’s agri-retailers are willing and able to provide leadership in the adoption of 4R Nutrient Stewardship principles that will broadly benefit both Ontario’s agri-food production sector and the environment.

This program is administered by Fertilizer Canada. To learn more about 4R Certification or to schedule an audit, visit [4rcertified.ca](http://4rcertified.ca).

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**Fertilizer Canada** represents manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur fertilizers. The fertilizer industry plays an essential role in Canada’s economy, contributing \$23 billion annually and over 76,000 jobs. The association is committed to supporting the fertilizer industry with innovative research and programming while advocating sustainability, stewardship, safety and security through standards and Codes of Practice. Please visit [fertilizercanada.ca](http://fertilizercanada.ca).

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Rabya Khanan  
Communications Manager  
[rkhanan@fertilizercanada.ca](mailto:rkhanan@fertilizercanada.ca)  
(613) 786-3035