



## 2026 4R Advocate Application

### **Introduction:**

The 4R Advocate Program began in 2012 with the goal of elevating the importance of 4R Nutrient Stewardship through pairs of retailers and growers working together to implement effective stewardship practices. TFI's retail members identify and nominate growers for this opportunity and the retailer and grower participate in all portions of the program as a pair.

As a part of the 4R Advocates program, selected retailer/grower pairs would participate in the development of a case study, an on-farm celebration and video filming (May, June or July), TFI's Agronomy Conference & Expo, including media training, legislative advocacy (December), and Commodity Classic (March), in addition to speaking opportunities, media interviews and more throughout a one-year time frame.

**Instructions:** To complete the nomination process, please provide the contact information for the nominating retailer and the nominated grower, and prepare a written submission as described on the following pages of this online application. Completed nominations should be submitted before 5 PM Eastern on January 30, 2026.

Retail companies can nominate multiple growers; however, we suggest multi-outlet entities use an internal vetting process to select the best nominations for submission.

Send questions regarding the nomination process to TFI Director of Member Programs, David Townsend via telephone (317) 373-8407 or [email](#).

This form is to be completed in 7 parts: Retailer Information, Grower Information, Nomination Narrative, 4R Nutrient Stewardship Practices, Membership & Leadership Experience, Advocacy & Speaking Experience and Farm Visit.

### **Contact Information:**

#### Retailer Contact Information:

- Name:
- Organization:
- TFI Member? (Y/N)
- Email:
- Phone:

#### Grower Contact Information:

- Name:
- Retail Organization:
- Email:
- Phone:
- Address:
- Farm Name:
- Farm Address:
- Acres Managed:
- Primary crops grown:
- Social Media (Personal and Farm):

**Nomination:**

Upload a nomination narrative telling the nutrient stewardship story for this retailer and grower pair. This is a space to showcase how a grower and retailer pair work together to apply the 4Rs in a farming operation.

\*Please provide an overview of the farm, what is grown, the acreage and a bit of the family legacy, if applicable. Include the grower's and retail advisor's perspective on how 4R Nutrient Stewardship helps achieve sustainability objectives and provides value. Please also include any additional metrics or information that would support the application.

\*750 words or fewer.

**4R Nutrient Stewardship Practices:**

1. Right Source:
  - a. Number of sources used in a single season for each nutrient (0, 1, 2, 3, More than 3)
    - i. Nitrogen
    - ii. Phosphorus
    - iii. Potassium
    - iv. Sulfur
    - v. Other Macros/Micros: \_\_
  - b. Do you use enhanced efficiency fertilizer products? (Y/N)
    - i. Nitrification Inhibitor
    - ii. Urease Inhibitor
    - iii. Coated Urea
    - iv. Phosphate Efficiency Product
  - c. Primary N Sources Used? (check all that apply)
    - i. Anhydrous Ammonia
    - ii. Urea
    - iii. Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) 28-32%
    - iv. Ammonium Nitrate
    - v. Ammonium Sulfate
    - vi. Potassium Nitrate
    - vii. Other: \_\_
2. Right Rate:
  - a. Identify the type of soil sampling (if any) completed.
    - i. Grid
    - ii. Zone
    - iii. Other: \_\_
    - iv. Do not sample
  - b. Do you use variable rate application of nutrients? (Y/N)
  - c. Do you account for nutrient credits from previous year to determine rate? (Y/N)
  - d. Do you account for nutrient credits from cover crops to determine nutrient application rate? (Y/N)
  - e. For irrigated acres, do you implement fertigation to apply nutrients to the most productive areas of the field? (Y/N/Do not irrigate)
  - f. Do you off-load and record as-applied maps (not the same as prescriptions)? (Y/N)
  - g. Do you utilize end-of-season stalk tests to evaluate crop uptake of nutrients? (Y/N)
  - h. Do you use Extension of University recommendations to determine fertilizer rates? (Y/N)
3. Right Time:
  - a. Do you utilize split application for Nitrogen? (Y/N)
  - b. Timing of Nitrogen application? (check all that apply)
    - i. Fall Application

- ii. Pre-Plant
    - iii. At Planting
    - iv. In-Season VE-V8
  - c. Do you utilize an in-season Nitrogen management tool or program? If so, please list the tool or program used.
    - i. Yes: \_\_
    - ii. Maybe
    - iii. No
  - d. When do you apply the majority of your Phosphorus (P)?
    - i. Fall
    - ii. Spring
  - e. Do you apply any N or P in the Fall or Winter? If yes, please list the estimated percentage of nutrients applied (e.g. 40% of total nutrients are applied in the Fall).
    - i. Yes: \_\_
    - ii. Not usually
    - iii. No
  - f. Do you utilize plant tissue testing to evaluate the effectiveness of fertilizer program and as a diagnostic tool when needed? (list crop(s) tested)
    - i. In-Season: \_\_
    - ii. At Harvest: \_\_
    - iii. Post-Harvest: \_\_
4. Right Place:
- a. N Placement:
    - i. In-Furrow
    - ii. Side-Dress
    - iii. 2x2
    - iv. 2x0
    - v. Broadcast
    - vi. Banding
    - vii. Foliar Application
    - viii. Incorporated
    - ix. Sub-Surface/Injected
    - x. Surface Applied
  - b. P Placement:
    - i. In-Furrow
    - ii. Side-Dress
    - iii. 2x2
    - iv. 2x0
    - v. Broadcast
    - vi. Banding
    - vii. Foliar Application
    - viii. Incorporated
    - ix. Sub-Surface/Injected
    - x. Surface Applied
  - c. Do you utilize GPS precision placement of nutrient application? (Y/N)
  - d. Do you utilize GPS variable rate nutrient application of P and K? (Y/N)
  - e. Do you use soil test levels to build variable rate nutrient application maps?
  - f. Do you have a record of application, and as-applied maps recorded and off-loaded from equipment? (Y/N/Sometimes)

**Additional Nutrient Stewardship Practices:**

- 1. Type of Water Management/Drainage System?
  - a. Controlled Drainage

- b. Free Drainage
  - c. Saturated Buffers
  - d. No Drainage
2. Do you implement buffer strips? (Y/N)
  3. What types of tillage do you utilize? (check all that apply)
    - a. No Till
    - b. Strip Till
    - c. Precision Tillage
    - d. Conventional Tillage (disk, chisel, etc.)
  4. Are there installed waterways on acres? (Y/N)
  5. Contour Farming? (if applicable)
    - a. Yes
    - b. No
    - c. Not applicable, the majority of acres have minimal slope
  6. Have you developed an annual nutrient management plan with a CCA? (Y/N)

**Membership & Leadership Experience:**

List up to 10 commodity organizations, member groups, Farm Bureau, etc. in which the retailer or grower are involved (denote "R:" or "G:" for each row). Please indicate any position, the level and the year(s) in which this involvement took place.

Organization	Position (if applicable)	Local (L), State (S), National (N)	Year(s)

**Advocacy & Speaking Experience:**

Share up to 10 of your past experiences in advocacy and speaking. This can encompass legislative advocacy, such as state or national Hill visits, or educational events, presentations and field days. Please indicate the event and/or organization, the level at which it took place and the year(s).

Event/Organization	Local (L), State (S), National (N)	Year(s)

**List Local News Outlets:** (e.g. newspapers, magazines, websites, radio stations, etc.)

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**Farm Visit:**

If selected as a 4R Advocate, TFI will conduct a casual on-farm celebration one evening, and video filming the next morning to feature the selected Advocates. Which Summer months would provide the best opportunity to showcase your farm and nutrient stewardship practices? (check all that apply)

- May
- June
- July
- Which dates would be most ideal to host the celebration and filming during one of these months?

**Acknowledgements:**

By checking this box, we acknowledge that if selected for the 2026 4R Advocate program, we will put forth one representative from the farm business and one representative from the nominating retail organization to complete the commitments of the program for one year (March-March)

By checking this box, we acknowledge our willingness to join an orientation call in March, collaborate on a case study by providing some farm data, host a farm visit for a celebration and filming with TFI staff (in May, June or July), attend the Agronomy Conference & Expo (August), attend the DC Experience (December), serve as an advocate at field days and speaking engagements (as my schedule allows), attend Commodity Classic (March) and join prep calls for each event two weeks prior.

**Conclusion:**

We thank you for submitting your information for the 4R Advocate Program. Your responses have been recorded and we will be in touch if we have any questions.

If you have any questions, please reach out to David Townsend at [dtownsend@tfi.org](mailto:dtownsend@tfi.org) or (317) 373-8407.