## La venue de ce conférencier a été rendue possible grâce au soutien financier du ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation

Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation











Un partenaire de premier plan!



Scientific Workshop « Management of Variability for the Optimization of Fertilization Practices »
Institut nationale de la recherche scientifique
(INRS) Siège social
Quebec, QC, Canada
9 April 2014

## **Bringing Better Practices to the Farm**

Tom Bruulsema, PhD, CCA Director, Northeast Region, North America Program Guelph, Ontario, Canada







Belarusian Potash Company



Formed in 2007

from the Potash

& Phosphate

Institute, the

International

**Institute** is

supported by

leading fertilizer

manufacturers.

**Plant Nutrition** 

CF Industries Holdings, Inc.















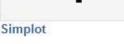


























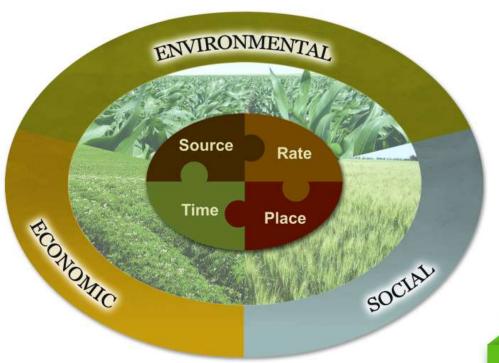
# Bringing Better Practices to the Farm Outline

- 1. 4R Nutrient Stewardship & Sustainability
- 2. Adaptive management
- 3. Data
- 4. Lake Erie Watershed

See <a href="http://nane.ipni.net/">http://nane.ipni.net/</a> for slides



## 4R: "right" means sustainable











How to Make a Difference - Fertilizer optimization





# The basic scientific principles of managing crop nutrients are universal

- 1. Provide essential elements
- 2. Supply plant-available forms
- 3. Suit soil properties
- 4. Synergisms, blend compatibility
- 5. Associated elements

- 1. Assess plant demand
- 2. Assess soil supply
- 3. Assess all available sources
- 4. Predict fertilizer use efficiency
- 5. Consider resources and economics

Source

Rate

**Time** 

- 1. Assess timing of crop uptake
- 2. Assess dynamics of soil supply
- 3. Assess timing of weather factors
- 4. Evaluate logistics

**Place** 

- 1. Recognize root-soil dynamics
- 2. Consider soil chemical reactions
- 3. Manage spatial variability
- 4. Fit needs of tillage system



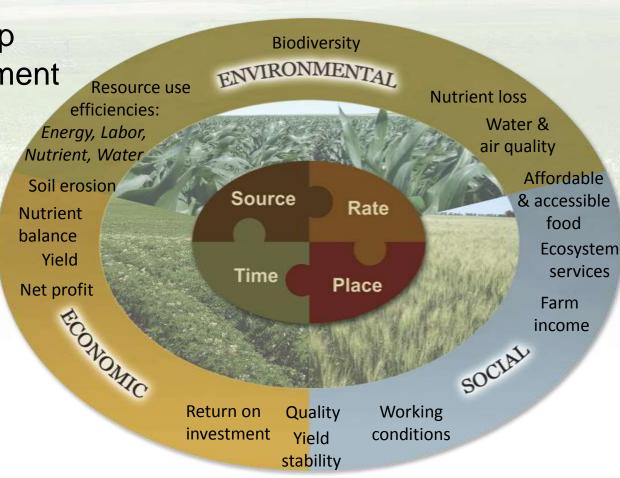


## The 4Rs influence performance indicators

Social, economic and environmental performance

 Influenced by crop and soil management as well

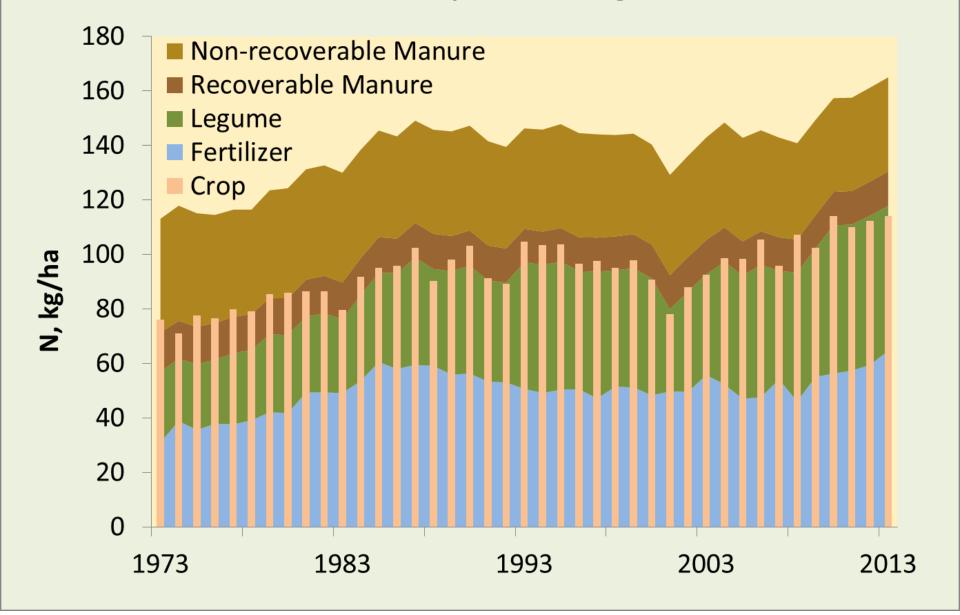
Stakeholders need to choose priorities





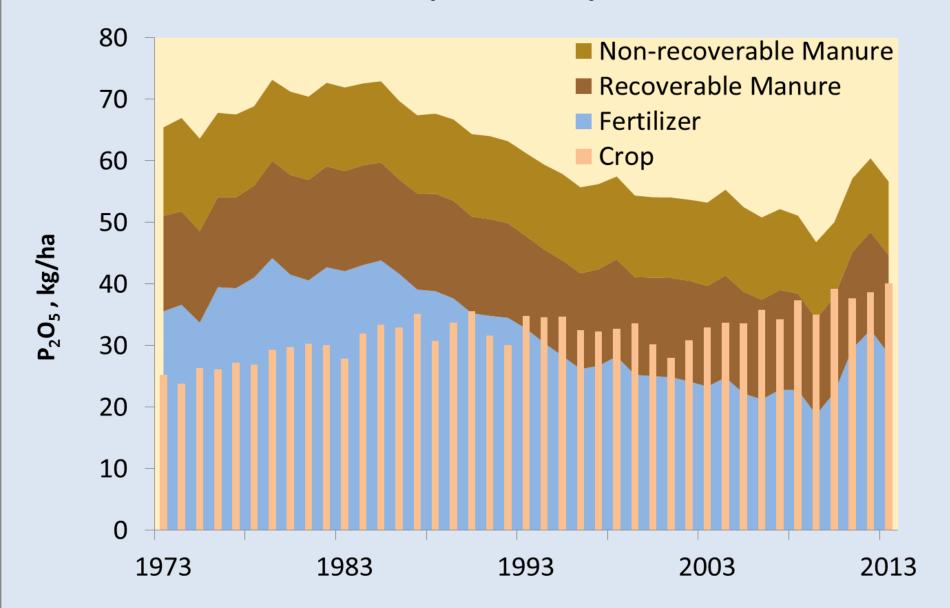


#### **Eastern Canada Cropland Nitrogen Balance**



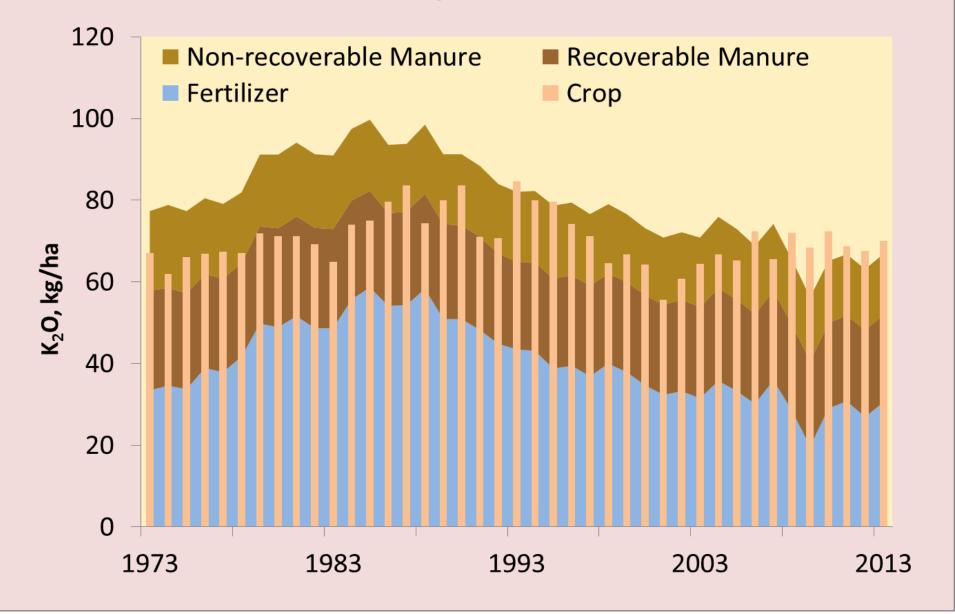


#### **Eastern Canada Cropland Phosphorus Balance**



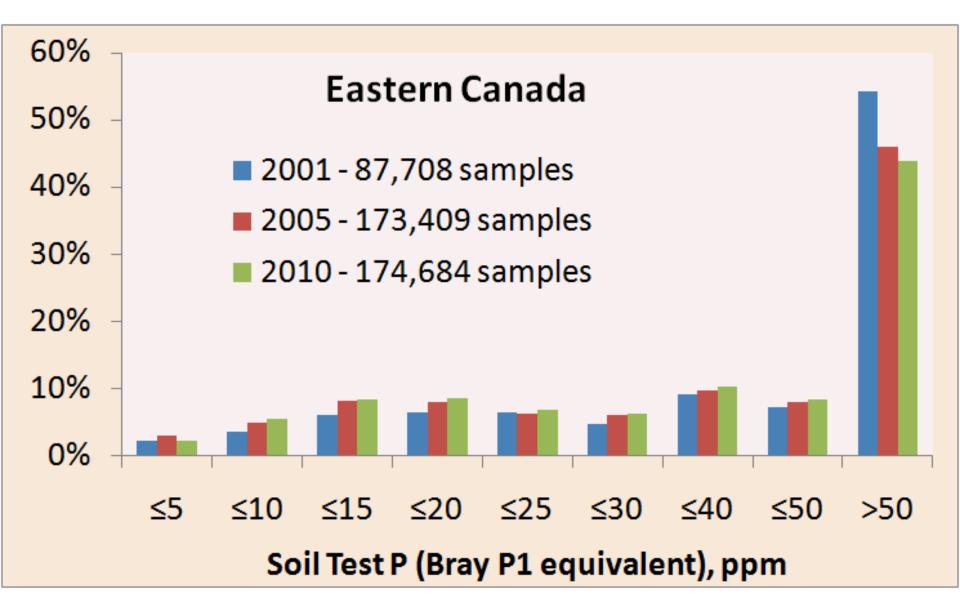


#### **Eastern Canada Cropland Potassium Balance**



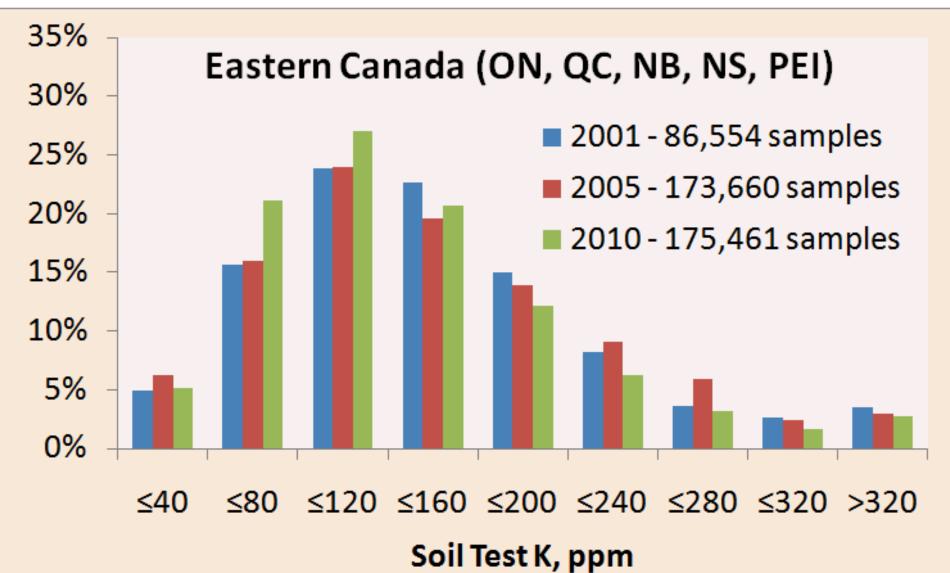


## Soil Test Summary – P





## Soil Test Summary – K





## Social impact of 4R Nutrient Stewardship

- Less direct than economic and environmental
- Easy: right place and odour
- More profound: sustainable intensification sparing land for nature – employment in decision support
- Precision ag: intensive approaches on extensive areas
- Accountability & communication
- Maintaining soils for future generations.



## Sustainability

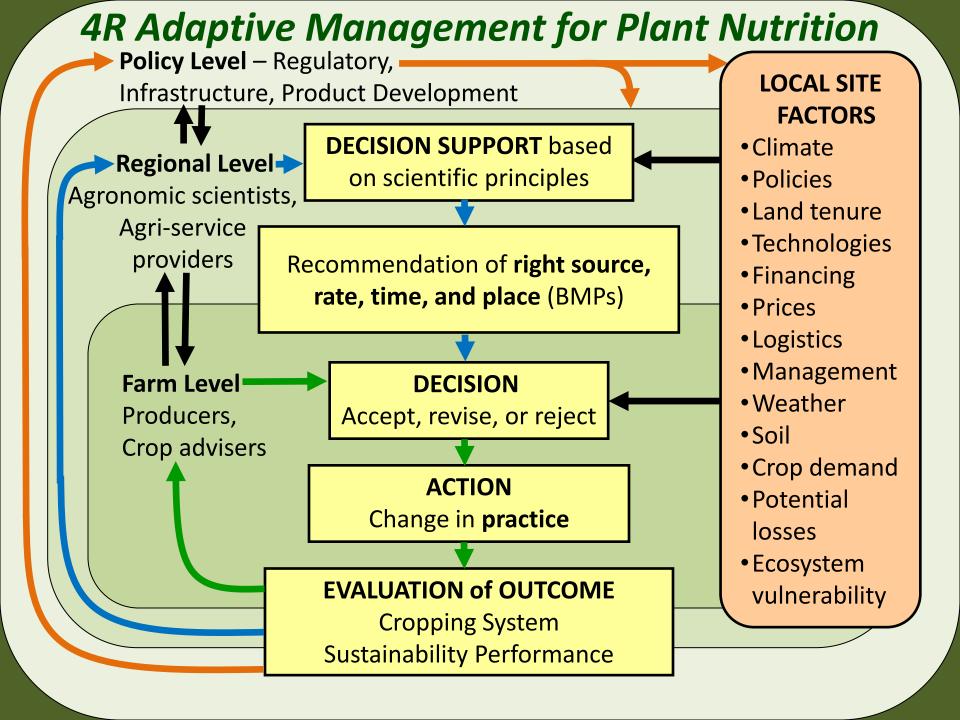
- 4R framework for communication
- Performance indicators for nutrient stewardship include:
  - effectiveness and efficiency
  - economic, environmental and social dimensions
- Global approach



## **Adaptive Management**



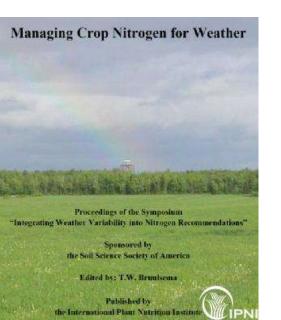




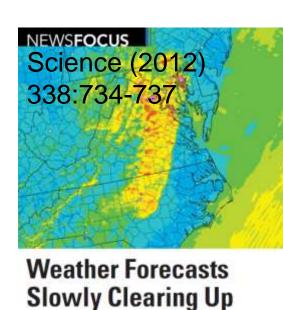
## Improving nutrient use efficiency depends on adapting management to weather

#### **\*STRATEGY**

Support development of decision support systems that account for weather.







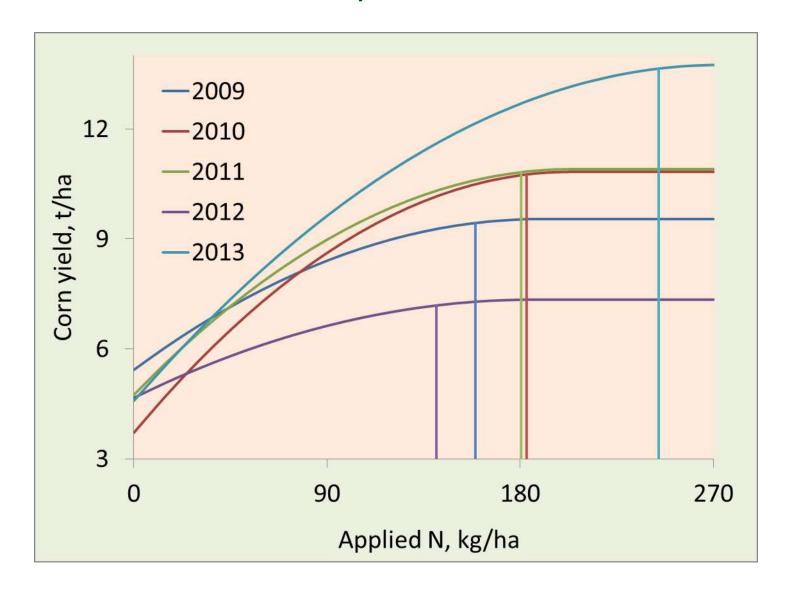
Ever-increasing computer power and new kinds of observations are

are still not yielding

driving weather prediction to new heights, but some kinds of weather

#### Corn yield response, first 5 years, Elora, Ontario

IPNI-2008-CAN-ON29 - hybrid Pioneer 38B14





# Decision Support for Adapting N Management to Weather

- Different soils respond differently to weather
- Complexity demands a decision support system
- Adapt and innovate right time and weather
- Any tool needs field testing adaptive research, on-farm



## Maize hybrids differ in N uptake

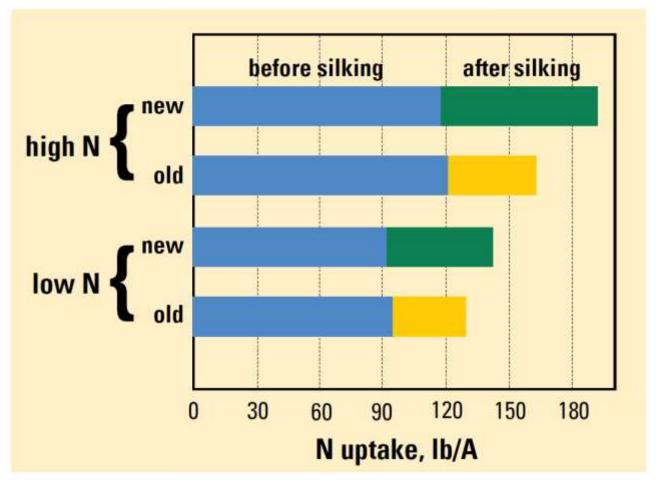


Figure 1. Corn N uptake in a new and an old hybrid in response to high and low soil N availability. Means over 3 years (1993-1995) at Elora, Ontario.

"Old":
Pride 5,
released in 1959

"New": Pioneer 3902, released in 1988



## **Adaptive management**

- On-farm research required
- Transparent models
- Understanding new hybrids



## **Data**





## **Database for Interpreting Soil Test Results**

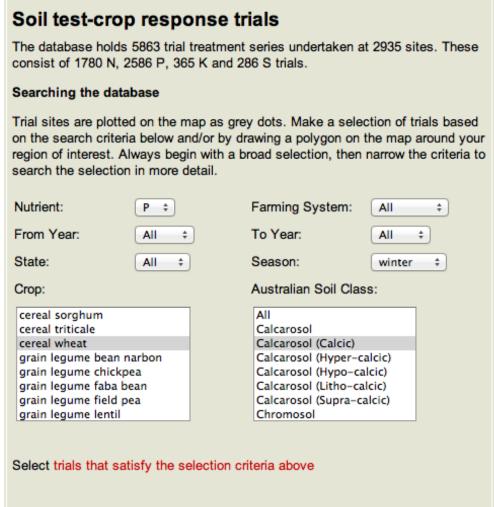
"Better Fertilizer Decisions for Crops in Australia"

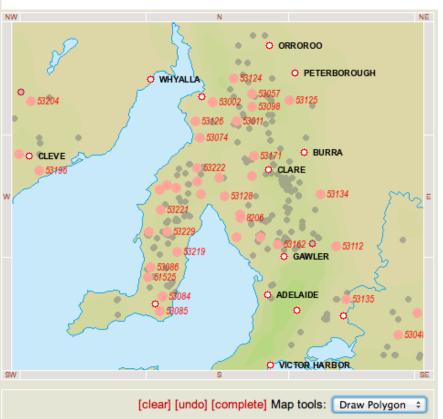




### Database for Interpreting Soil Test Results

"Better Fertilizer Decisions for Crops in Australia"

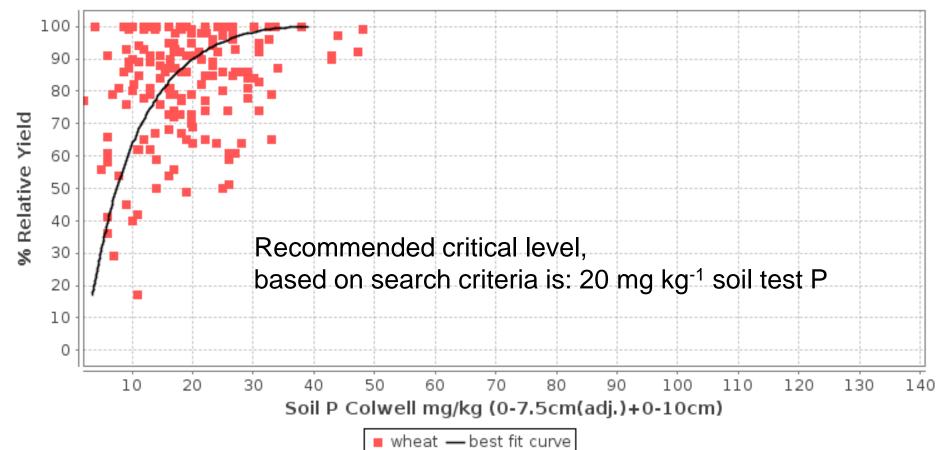






## **Database for Interpreting Soil Test Results**

"Better Fertilizer Decisions for Crops in Australia"



#### Soil test calibration:

80% Relative Yield: 15.0 (11.0 - 20.0)

90% Relative Yield: 20.0 (15.0 - 27.0)

95% Relative Yield: 25.0 (17.0 - 36.0)

Correlation R: 0.26 Slope RY(50-80): 4.0 (1.5 - 6.5) Regression equation:  $x = e^{(2.1301(arcsin(sqrt(y/100))) + 0.34003)}$ 70% confidence limit at 90% Relative Yield: 20.0 (17.0 - 24.0)

#### Data filters:

Crop: wheat

## Can crop nutrition match health care?

## Evidence-based health care and systematic reviews

Evidence-based health care

Are scientific methods used to determine which drugs and procedures are best for treating diseases? The answers may surprise you. Modern healthcare is undergoing a long-overdue and dramatic evolution.

#### Systematic reviews

A systematic review is a high-level overview of primary research on a particular research question that tries to identify, select, synthesize and appraise all high quality research evidence relevant to that question in order to answer it.

# Individual Clinical External Evidence EBM Patient Values & Expectations

The Evidence-based Medicine Triad

Source: Florida State University, College of Medicine. Retrieved 08.07.11.

#### **Key Points:**

- Systematic reviews seek to collate all evidence that fits pre-specified eligibility criteria in order to address a specific research question
- Systematic reviews aim to minimise bias by using explicit, systematic methods
- The Cochrane Collaboration prepares, maintains and promotes systematic reviews to inform healthcare decisions: Cochrane Reviews

http://www.cochrane.org

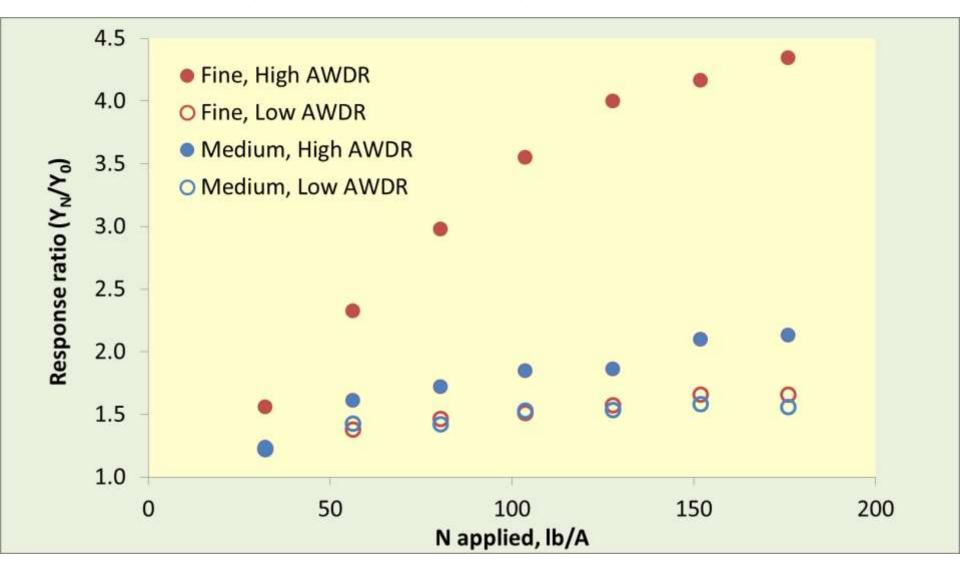


## Systematic review – challenges

- "quasi" systematic reviews
- the sheer number of hypotheses to test



## Networking studies through meta-analysis





## Meta-analysis – challenges

- "a procedure to analyze and synthesize datasets from separate studies pursuing similar objectives" (Borenstein et al., 2009)
- Published studies criterion of originality
- Grouping
- Response ratios
- Log transformations



#### **Data**

- Curation and accessibility
- Systematic reviews
- Meta-analysis

Opportunity: networking across political jurisdictions



## Lake Erie watershed







# INSIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL PLANT NUTRITION INSTITUTE

December 2012

#### Reducing Loss of Fertilizer Phosphorus to Lake Erie with the 4Rs

Algal blooms in Lake Erie have been getting worse in the past few years. Phosphorus (P) has often been considered the nutrient controlling such blooms. The loads of dissolved P in the rivers draining into Lake Erie vary greatly year-to-year, but higher loads have become more frequent in recent years than in the mid-1990s. Agriculture is one of several sources of dissolved P.

This article outlines how crop producers in the Lake Erie watershed can reduce losses of P by adopting a 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach to guide their fertilizer application practices.

#### Background

uch of the cropland of the Lake Erie watershed is found in Ohio, with smaller areas in Indiana, Michigan and Ontario

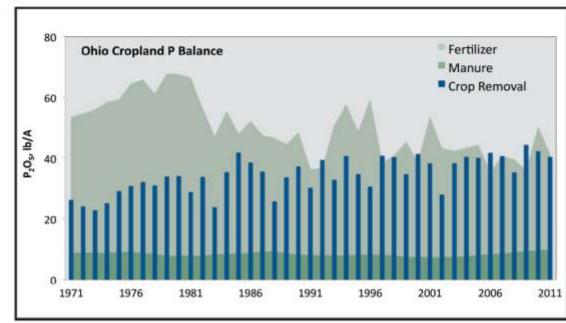
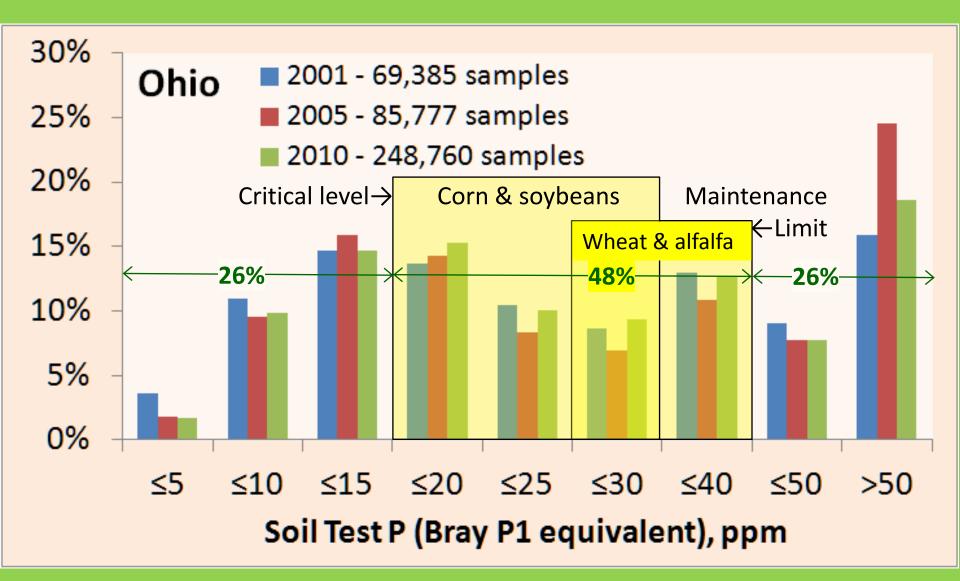


Figure 2. Phosphorus balance trend over time for Ohio cropland. \*2011 fertilizer estimated.





## Soil test P distribution, 2001-2010





Practice	Advantages	Limitations
S – MAP or DAP R – rotation removal T – <u>fall</u> P – broadcast	Minimal soil compaction Allows timely planting in spring Low-cost fertilizer form Low cost of application	Risk of elevated P in runoff in late fall and winter Low N use efficiency
S – MAP or DAP R – rotation removal T – <u>spring</u> P – broadcast	Minimal soil compaction Better N use efficiency Low-cost fertilizer form Low cost of application	Risk of elevated P in spring runoff before incorporation Potential to delay planting Retailer spring delivery capacity
S – MAP or fluid APP R – one crop removal T – spring P – <u>2" x 2" band</u>	Low risk of elevated P in runoff  Most efficient use of N  Less soil P stratification	Cost and practicality Potential to delay planting Retailer delivery capacity Cost of fluid versus granular P
S – MAP or DAP R – rotation removal T – <u>fall</u> P – <u>banded in zone</u>	Low risk of elevated P in runoff  Maintain residue cover  Allows timely planting in spring  Less soil P stratification	Cost of RTK GPS guidance Cost of new equipment More time required than broadcast
S – fluid APP P – point injection	As above	As above, plus cost of fluid versus granular P
Choice of practice considers both advantages and limitations.		

## 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Standard

## Requirements for Certification For Nutrient Service Providers in the Lake Erie Watershed

Introdu	iction	
Α	Background	
В	Scope	
С	Goals	
D	Structure and Implementation	
Ε	Contact	
Terms and Definitions		
References		
Standard – Requirements for First 3 Years		
1	Initial Training and Ongoing Education	
2	Monitoring of 4R Implementation	
3	Nutrient Recommendations and Application	

Version 2.0 October 2013





## Who is working on 4R Certification?













## Fertilizer Institute

Nourish, Replenish, Grow



INTERNATIONAL PLANT NUTRITION INSTITUTE



































## 4R Certification - Lake Erie Watershed

- Rollout 18 March 2014 190+ agri-retail audience
- 22 agri-retail locations signed up for audit summer 2014
- Audit procedures from SCS Global

4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program Launched

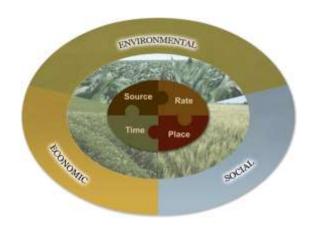


http://4rcertified.org/



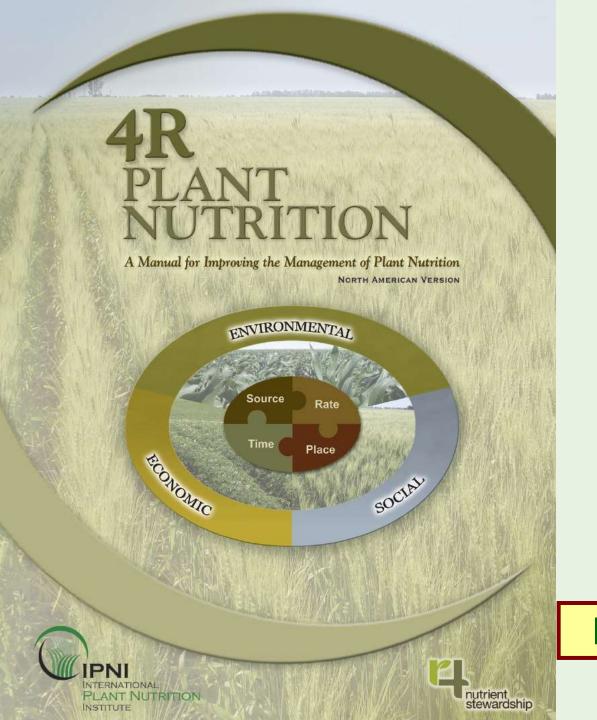
## **Summary – Bringing Better Practices to the Farm**

- 1. Sustainability performance indicators industry is engaging stakeholders.
- 2. Adaptive management & on-farm research is needed to improve nutrient use effectiveness and efficiency.
- 3. Accessible Data is required for both #1 and #2.
- 4. Certification and professional recognition are important.









## **Thank You**

http://nane.ipni.net