



AgroMart Annual Training Meeting – “Precision Counts”

15 November 2016

Guelph, Ontario, Canada

# 4R Implementation in Ontario

## Phosphorus & Sustainability



**Tom Bruulsema**, Phosphorus Program Director, IPNI  
**Ron Campbell**, Operations and Member Services Manager,  
Ontario Agri Business Association



Agrium Inc.



Arab Potash Company



BHP Billiton



CF Industries Holdings, Inc.



Compass Minerals Plant Nutrition



International Raw Materials LTD



Kingenta Ecological Engineering Group Co., Ltd.



K+S KALI GmbH



LUXI Fertilizer Industry Group



The Mosaic Company



OCP S.A.



PhosAgro



PotashCorp



Shell Sulphur Solutions



Simplot



Sinofert Holdings Limited



SQM



Uralchem, JSC



Uralkali



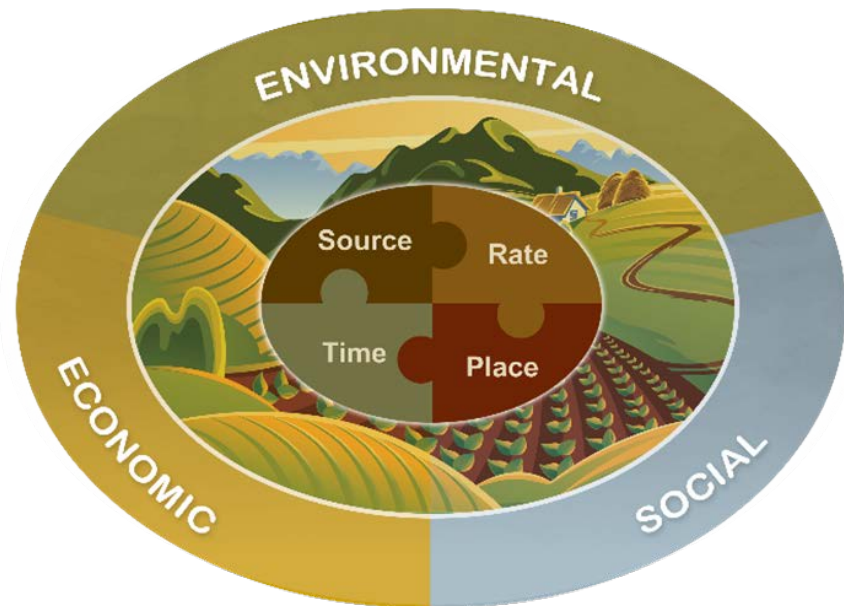
Yara International ASA

The **International Plant Nutrition Institute** is supported by leading fertilizer manufacturers.

Formed in 2007 from the Potash & Phosphate Institute, its mission is to develop and promote science for responsible management of crop nutrition

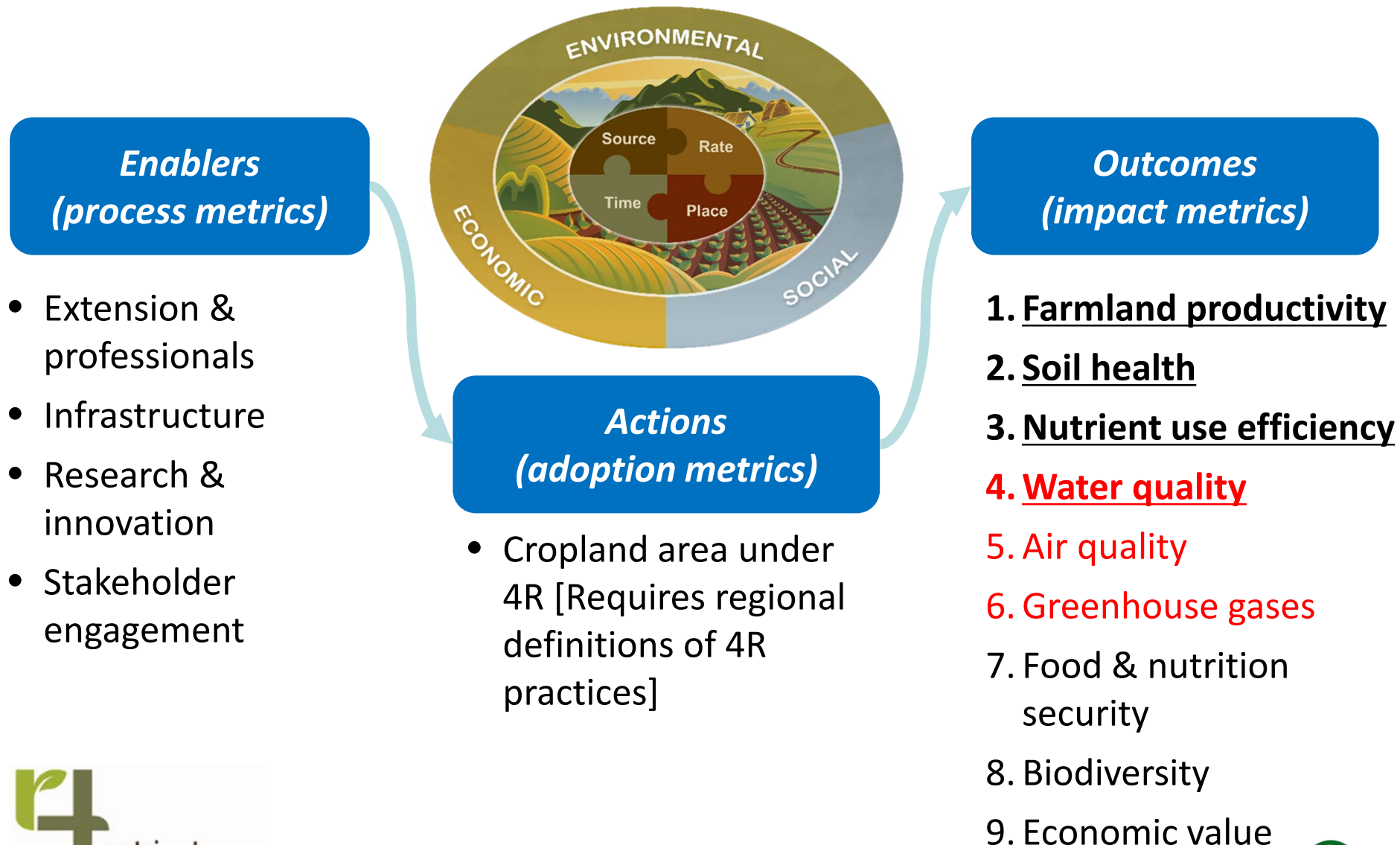
# Outline

1. Sustainability, 4R, and Phosphorus – Tom
2. 4R Implementation in Ontario – Ron
3. Agronomic considerations for Ontario – Tom



**As a sustainability system,  
4R Nutrient Stewardship  
needs METRICS.**

# Nutrient Stewardship Metrics for Sustainable Crop Nutrition



# Fieldprint<sup>®</sup> Calculator Sustainability Metrics



- Metrics that matter, usable at farm scale, linked to management with robust science
- Biodiversity, Energy Use, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Irrigation Water Use, Land Use, Soil Carbon, Soil Conservation, **Water Quality**
- Current water quality metric is USDA NRCS WQI – qualitative
- Developing quantitative water quality outcome model to enable balancing among metrics
- Model requires definition of baseline and better practices
  - Nutrients (N & P), sediment, and pesticides

**4R Outcome Metrics  
are influenced by  
4R and more.**



# OUTCOMES

of



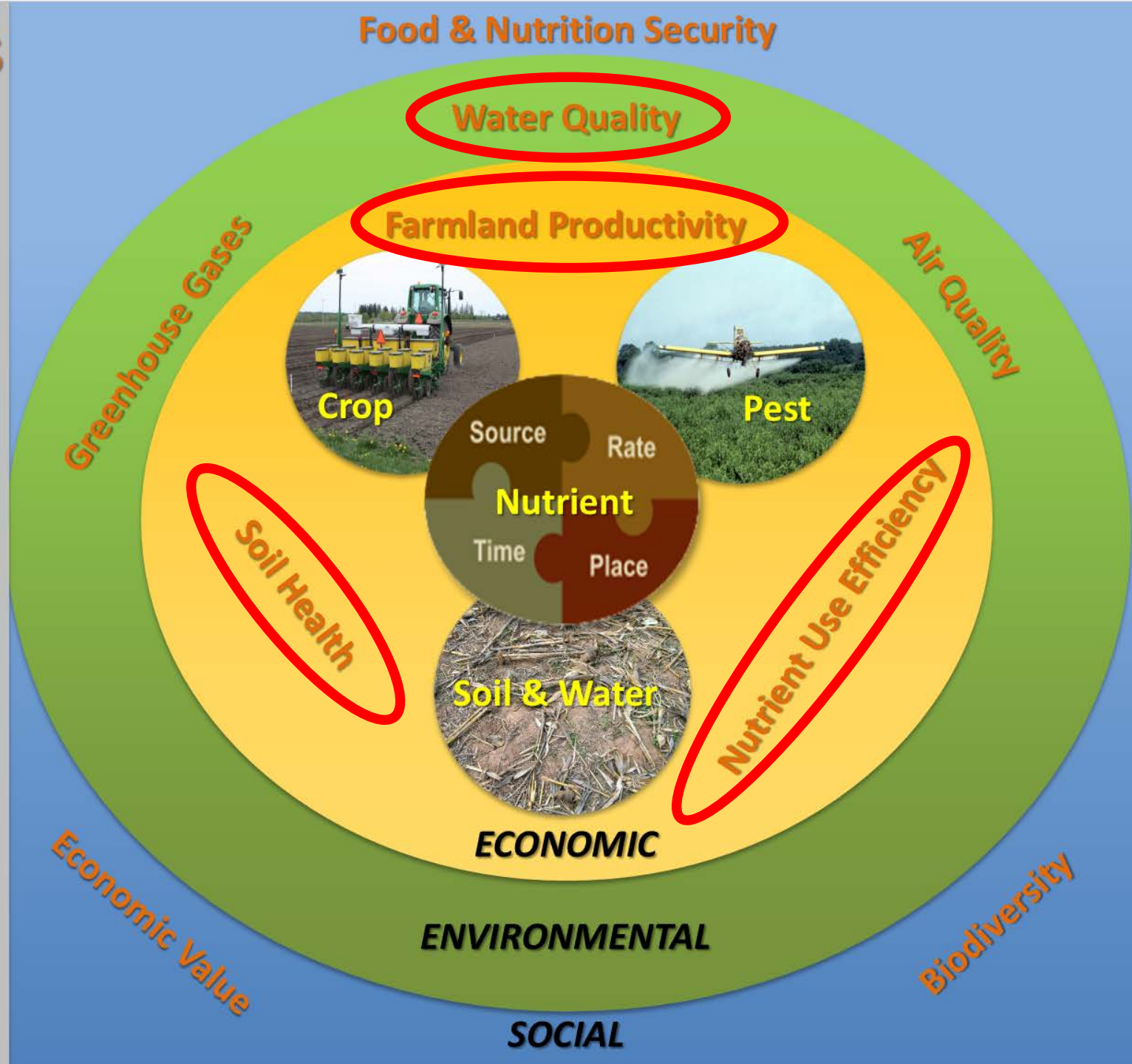
are  
influenced  
by

crop and pest  
management,

and  
by

soil and water  
conservation  
practices

in the context  
of changing  
weather and  
climate.





**Adaptive Management  
addresses 4R metrics  
at scales ranging from  
farm to global.**

# ***4R adaptive management involves decision cycles.***

**Policy Level** – Regulatory,  
Infrastructure, Product Development

**Regional Level**

Agonomic scientists,  
Agri-service  
providers

**Farm Level**

Producers,  
Crop advisers

**DECISION SUPPORT** based  
on scientific principles

Recommendation of **right source,  
rate, time, and place** (BMPs)

**DECISION**

Accept, revise, or reject

**ACTION**

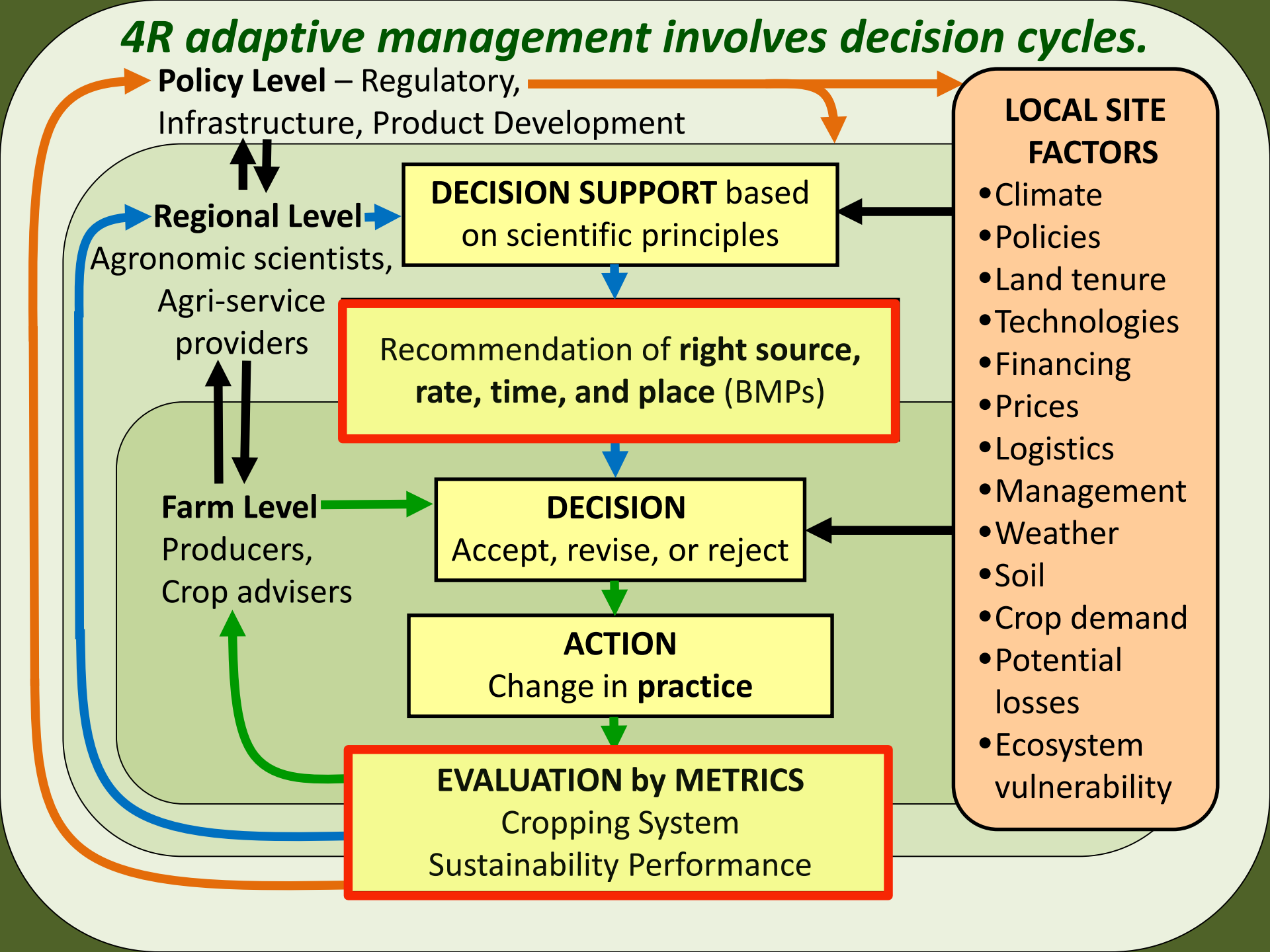
Change in **practice**

**EVALUATION by METRICS**

Cropping System  
Sustainability Performance

**LOCAL SITE  
FACTORS**

- Climate
- Policies
- Land tenure
- Technologies
- Financing
- Prices
- Logistics
- Management
- Weather
- Soil
- Crop demand
- Potential losses
- Ecosystem vulnerability

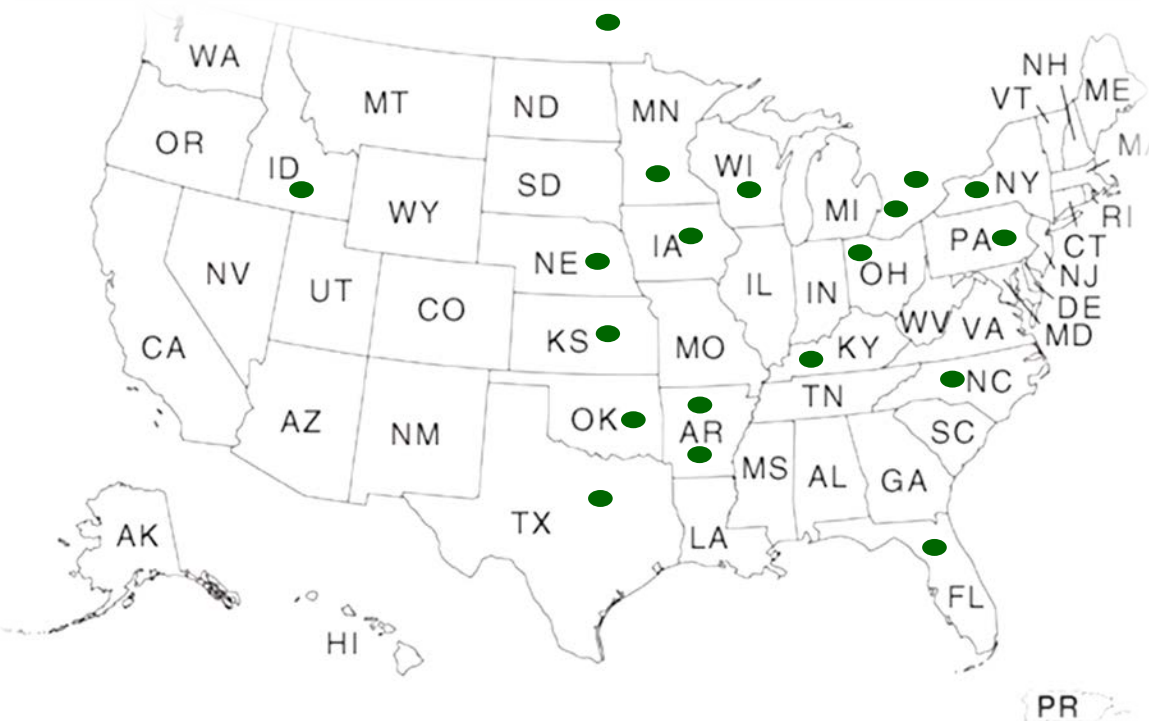


# Defining 4R phosphorus practices at the continental scale.

## 4R P Practices - Participating Scientists

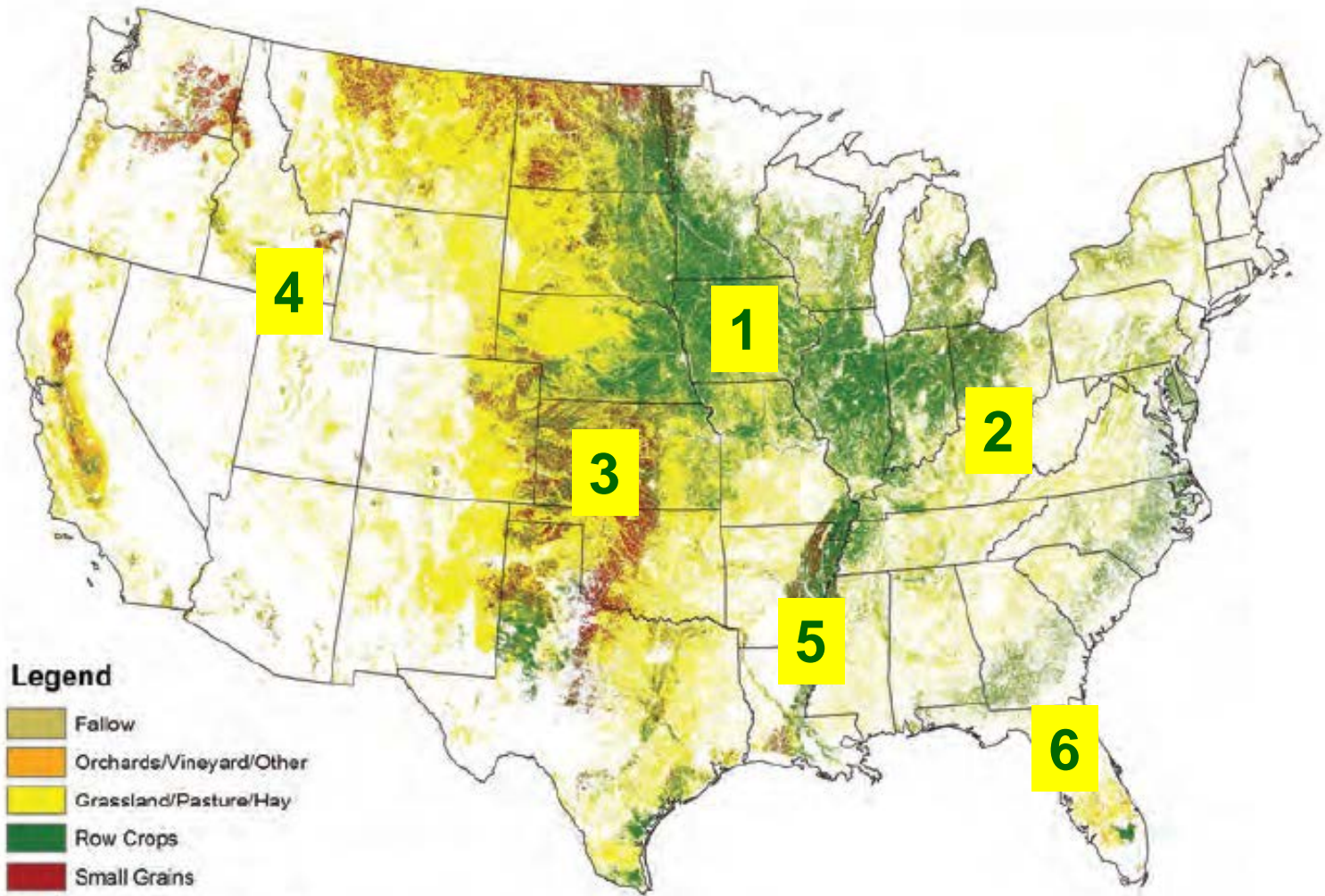
1. **Brian Arnall**, Oklahoma State U
2. **Doug Beegle**, Penn State U
3. **Don Flaten**, U of Manitoba
4. **Laura Good**, U of Wisconsin
5. **Kevin King**, USDA-ARS, Columbus, OH
6. **Quirine Ketterings**, Cornell U
7. **Josh McGrath**, U of Kentucky
8. **Antonio Mallarino**, Iowa State U

9. **Rao Mylavarapu**, U of Florida  
with input from other colleagues.
10. **David Mulla**, U of Minnesota
11. **Nathan Nelson**, Kansas State U
12. **Keith Reid**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
13. **Nathan Slaton**, U of Arkansas
14. **Charles Shapiro**, U of Nebraska
15. **Andrew Sharpley**, U of Arkansas
16. **Doug Smith**, USDA-ARS, Temple, TX
17. **Ivan O'Halloran**, U of Guelph
18. **Deanna Osmond**, North Carolina State U
19. **David Tarkalson**, USDA-ARS, Kimberly, ID



# Regions and Cropping Systems

1. Western Corn and Soybean
2. Eastern Cereals and Oilseeds
3. Wheat in the Great Plains
4. Irrigated Potatoes in the Northwest
5. Rice
6. Irrigated vegetables





**Table 2: General and Specific 4R Phosphorus Application Practices for Eastern Cereals & Oilseeds**

Level	Right Source	Right Rate	Right Time	Right Place
<b>Basic</b>	All sources applied have known or guaranteed analysis. Manures have current nutrient analysis or current book values.	Rates are based on current soil tests using recognized sampling and analytical procedures, and recognized evidence based recommendations. All P sources are accounted for. Application equipment is maintained and calibrated. Current soil tests are taken within the last 3 years. Rate does not exceed 3 years anticipated crop removal.	Applications are not made when soils are frozen or snow covered unless based on recognized guidelines. Surface applications are made only when risk of runoff is recognized to be low.	Banding or injecting below the soil surface is encouraged. Where P is broadcast, it is either incorporated into the soil before runoff occurs, or applied only where low risk of runoff is recognized. For no-till management, P is placed in subsurface bands.
<b>Inter-mediate</b>	As in basic, plus: Manures have farm-specific nutrient analyses using recognized sampling procedures.	As in basic, plus: A recognized P index is used when recommended. Anticipated crop removal is based on past documented crop yields. Rate does not exceed 2 years anticipated crop removal.	Applications are not made when soils are frozen or snow covered. A recognized P index is used when recommended. Applications are made close to or at planting.	As in basic, plus: A recognized P index is used where recommended Starter (e.g. 2"x2" or in row) is used if recommended. Use appropriate placement to avoid crop injury given fertilizer rate and source.
<b><u>Ad-vanced</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in intermediate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in intermediate, plus:</li> <li>Fields are subdivided to receive zone-specific rates based on loss potential as well as crop response potential.</li> <li>Rate does not exceed recommendation for the current crop.</li> <li>A recognized P index is used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in intermediate, plus:</li> <li>A recognized P index is used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in intermediate, plus:</li> <li>A recognized P index is used.</li> </ul>

1. All nutrient management practices meet or exceed requirements of locally applicable regulations.
2. Management of soil pH, lime and other nutrients is assumed to follow locally appropriate practices.
3. The term "recognized"—when used in reference to recommended practices, tools or interpretations—is taken to mean recognized as an agency entrusted with the task of providing such recommendations. These may include land grant universities appropriate to each state, government extension agencies in Canadian provinces, or multi-stakeholder bodies (including universities and/or government extension agencies) established to provide recommendations relevant to soil fertility and plant nutrition.
4. Conservation practices (field and farm specific) are used to minimize sediment and nutrient loss in surface runoff and tile discharge.
5. The producer or adviser involved in making the practice decisions is encouraged to meet or exceed a knowledge standard equivalent to that of a Certified Crop Adviser or Certified Nutrient Management Planner, preferably with demonstrated knowledge of principles of 4R Nutrient Stewardship.



# 4R efficacy for reducing P loss, % reduction

- ranges found in field experiments across the USA and Canada

Practice	Dissolved P	Particulate P
Source	---	---
Rate	60 to 88%	negligible
Time	41 to 42%	negligible
Place	20 to 98%	-60% to NS
Soil inversion	NS to 92%	-59% to NS
Conservation tillage	-308 to -40%	-33 to 96%

Dodd & Sharpley, 2015. Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems.

1. Wide range of efficacies demands more site-specific focus.
2. Trade-off between dissolved and particulate is important.

# 4R Implementation in Ontario

Agromart Growing Innovation Meeting

Ron Campbell

November 15, 2016



# Memorandum of Cooperation

- ▶ OABA along with Fertilizer Canada and Ontario government signed Memorandum of Cooperation in September 2015
- ▶ MoC recognizes role 4R Nutrient Stewardship can play in managing environmental impact of crop nutrients while ensuring sustainable crop production

# 4R Program National

- ▶ Fertilizer Canada (F.C.) along with International Plant Nutrition Institute and the Fertilizer Institute (U.S.) created 4R Nutrient Stewardship program
- ▶ F.C. has MoC's in New Brunswick, PEI, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan
- ▶ F.C. has created online training for agronomists and farmers
- ▶ F.C. helped fund creation of CCA 4R Specialization program
- ▶ F.C. established 4R acre designation program - online registry for 4R consistent acres
- ▶ Goal of 20 million 4R designated acres across Canada

# 4R Steering Committee

- ▶ Steering Committee established
- ▶ 3 Signing partners
- ▶ Additional representation from Conservation Authorities, GFO, OFA, CFFO
- ▶ Science & Technology working group
  - ▶ Ensure 4R approach is science-based and practical
  - ▶ Includes reps from livestock groups and AAFC
  - ▶ Brandon Yott is a member of this committee

# 4R Steering Committee

- ▶ \$300,000 funding from OABA and F.C.
- ▶ OMAFRA providing funding for specific projects
- ▶ Communications efforts
  - ▶ GFO Conference
  - ▶ Farm tour
- ▶ Pilot Projects
  - ▶ 4R Acre Designation
  - ▶ Retailer Certification



# 4R Designated Acres

- ▶ 20 OABA Retailer volunteered to participate in pilot
- ▶ Has been a challenge for participants
- ▶ Based on best practices and continuous improvement
- ▶ Agronomists more comfortable with pass/fail?
- ▶ Difficult to 'judge' practices of farmer

# Retailer Certification

- ▶ Ontario 4R conducted a pilot project looking at retailer certification program developed in Ohio
- ▶ Four Ontario retailers audited
- ▶ Audits conducted by Ohio 4R auditor using 41 Ohio guidelines (slightly modified)
- ▶ Feedback from participants has been positive

# Next Steps

- ▶ Retailer Certification Auditor prepared report
- ▶ Has been reviewed by OABA Crop Inputs Committee
- ▶ Ontario 4R Steering Committee will review options and determine direction of 4R in Ontario
- ▶ Need to create program that meets needs of producers, industry, government and the public

# If Retailer Certification...

- ▶ Will create some changes in retailer/producer relationship
- ▶ Documentation
  - ▶ Producer designation for application
  - ▶ Soil test required for recommendation
- ▶ Training
  - ▶ CCA 4R designation
  - ▶ Requirement for producer training
- ▶ Weather Recording
  - ▶ Incorporation before rain event

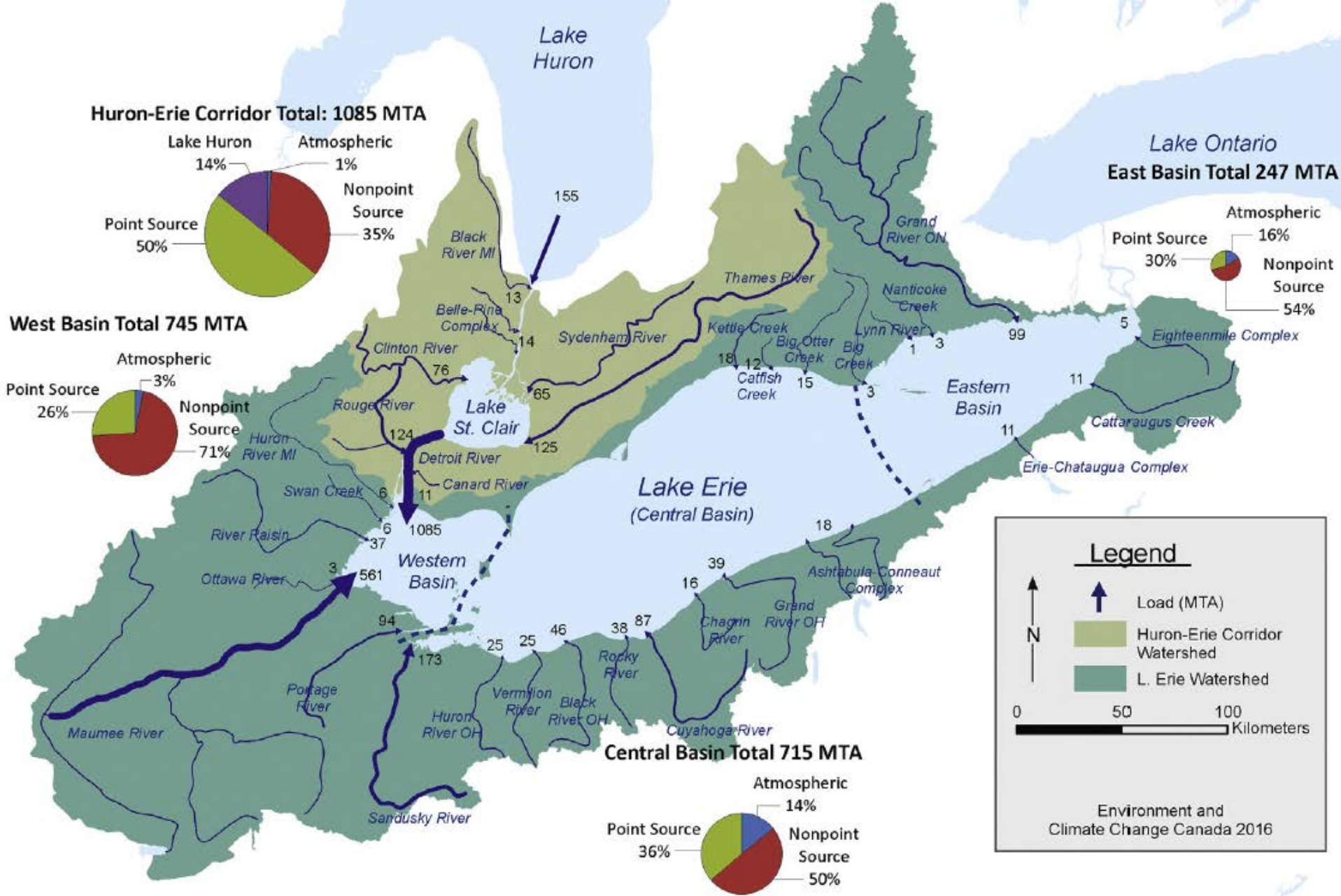
# Challenges...

- ▶ Incorporating livestock and poultry sectors
  - ▶ How will it mesh with NMA
  - ▶ Manure testing
  - ▶ Spreading on Frozen or Snow Covered Ground
- ▶ Recommendations
  - ▶ Vegetable recommendations
  - ▶ Ontario recommendations vs Industry recommendations

# Agronomic Considerations

## Western Lake Erie Watershed 4R Certification Program Ontario



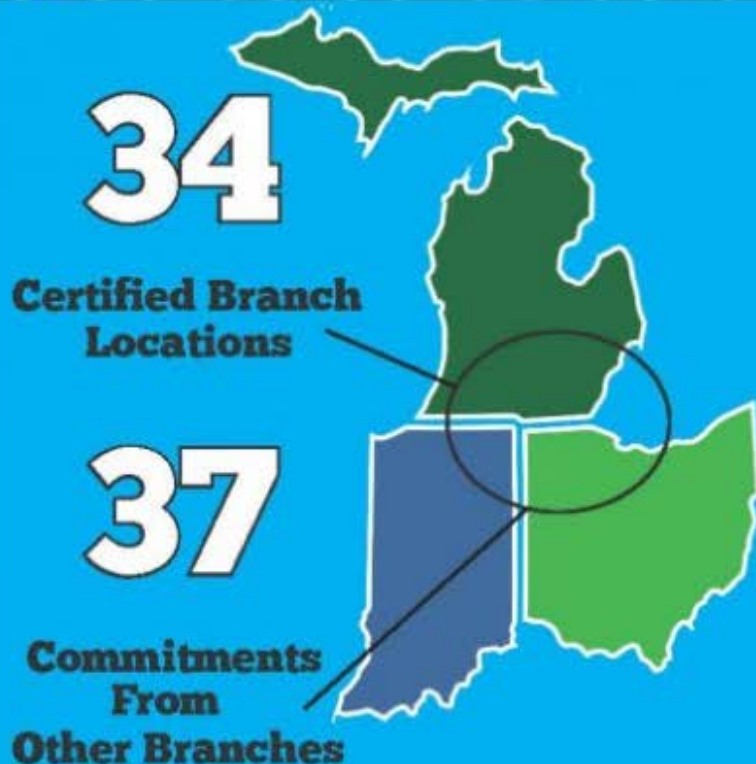


Maccoux, M.J., et al., **Soluble reactive phosphorus loadings to Lake Erie**, J. Great Lakes Res. (2016), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2016.08.005>



# 4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Western Lake Erie Basin - Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana



Acres serviced or  
applied in WLEB 1,900,000

Acres outside  
WLEB 800,000  
serviced or applied

Total 2,700,000

Number of Clients Serviced in WLEB 4,000

Clients Serviced Outside WLEB 1,500

Total 5,500

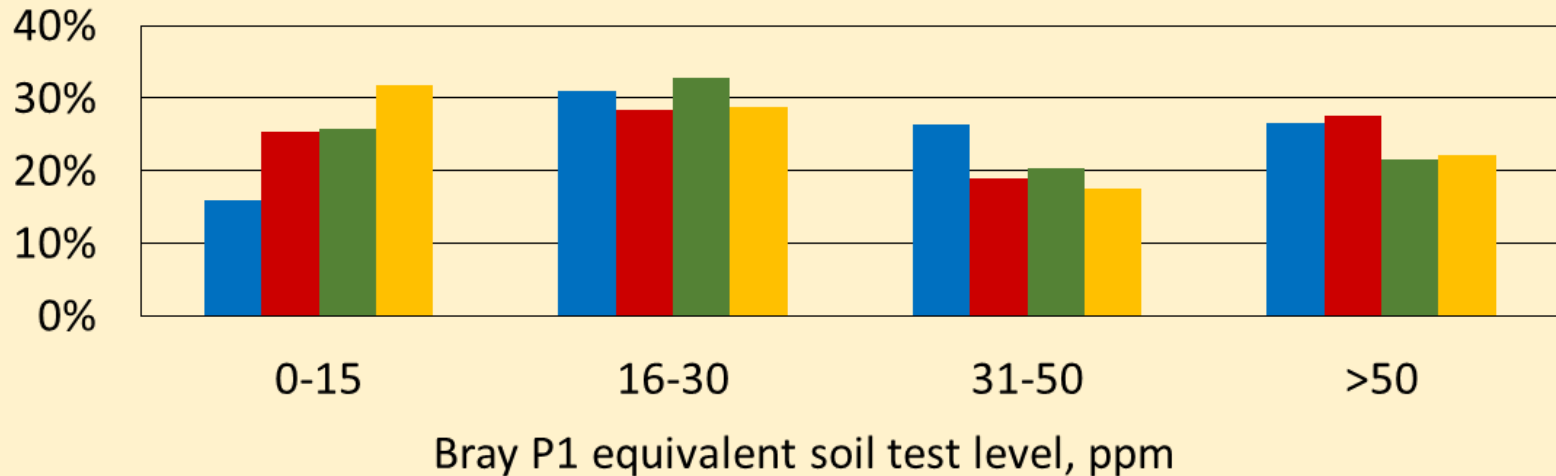


**2.7M acres in OH-IN-MI  
extending to all of Ohio**

# Phosphorus legacy differs by region

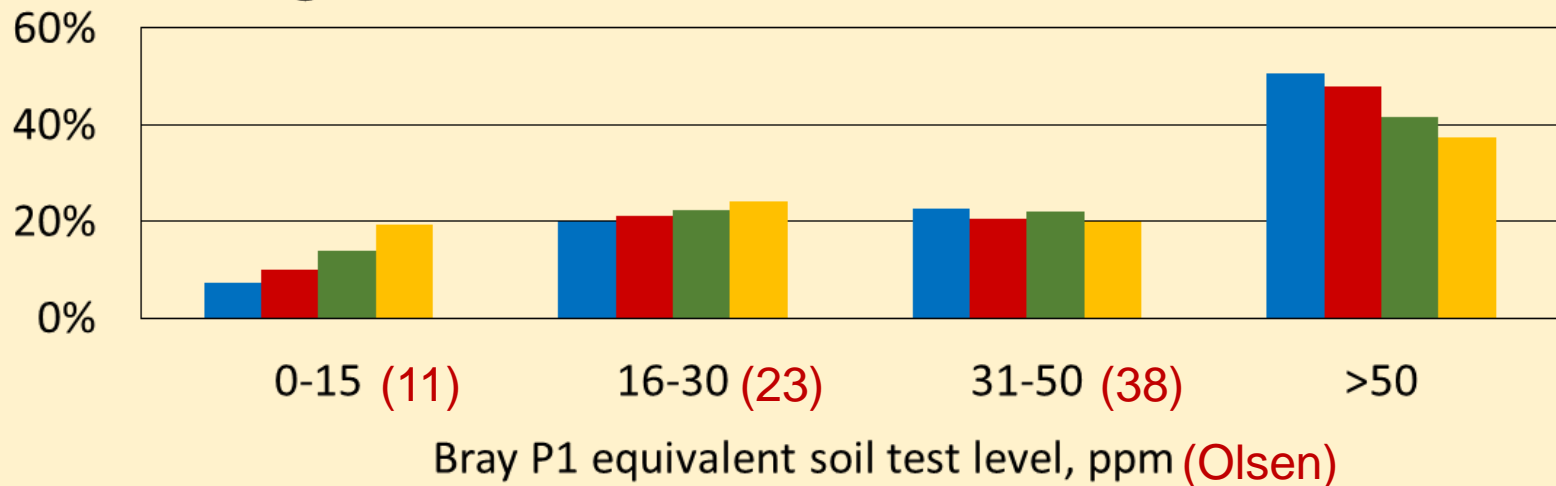
## Indiana - Ohio

2001 2005 2010 2015

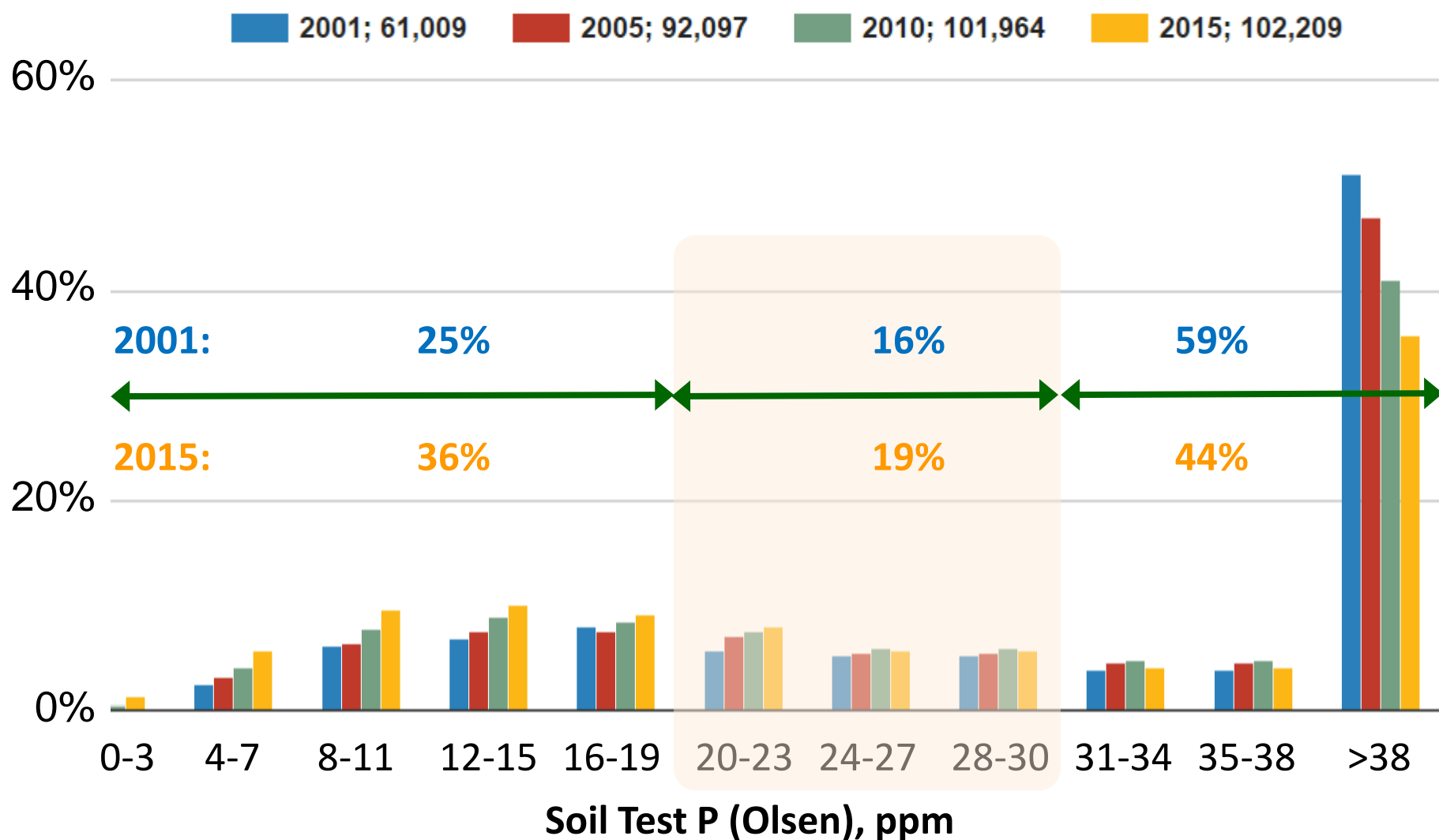


## Michigan - Ontario

2001 2005 2010 2015



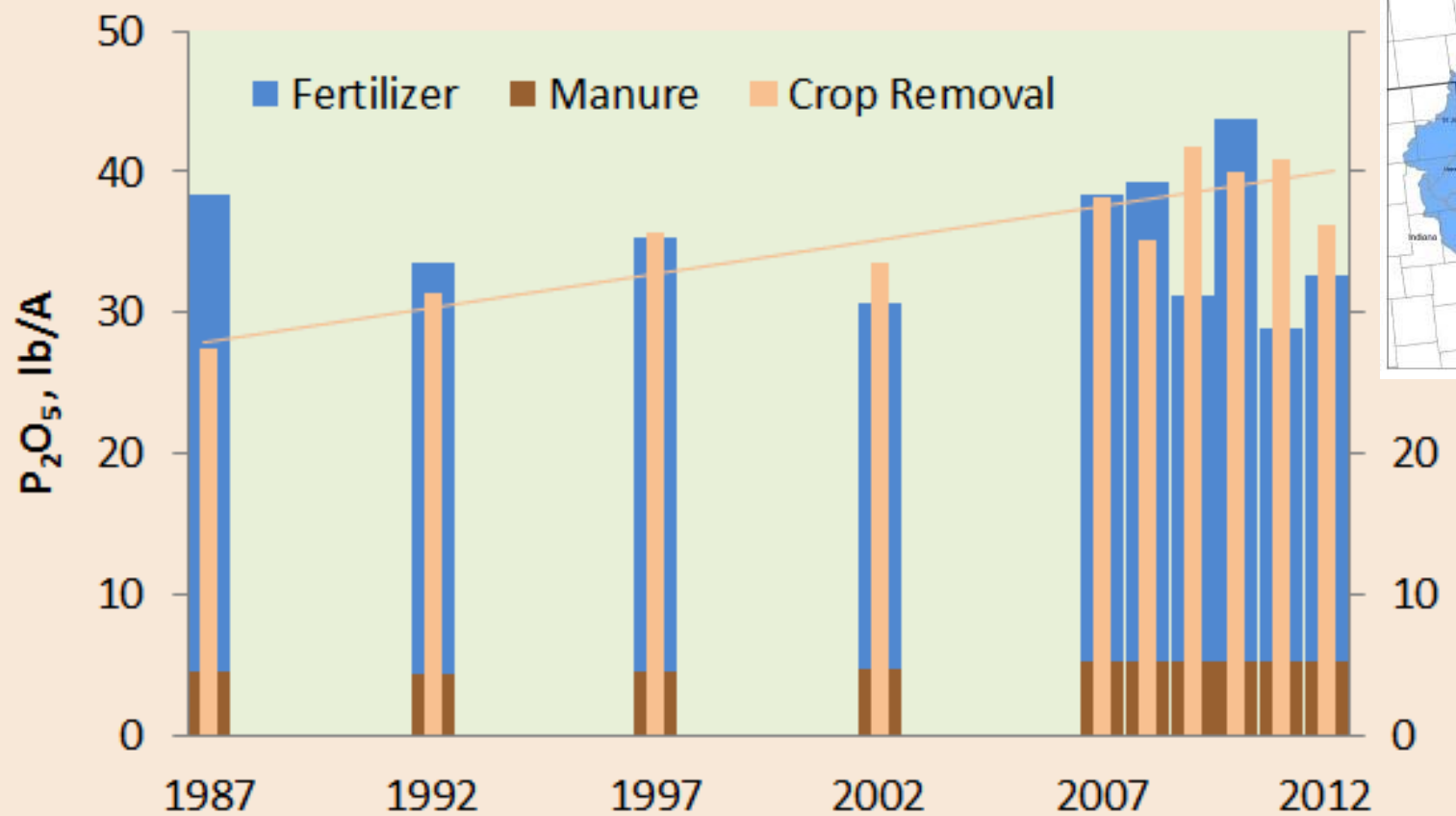
# Ontario has more soils very high in P than Ohio



<http://soiltest.ipni.net>

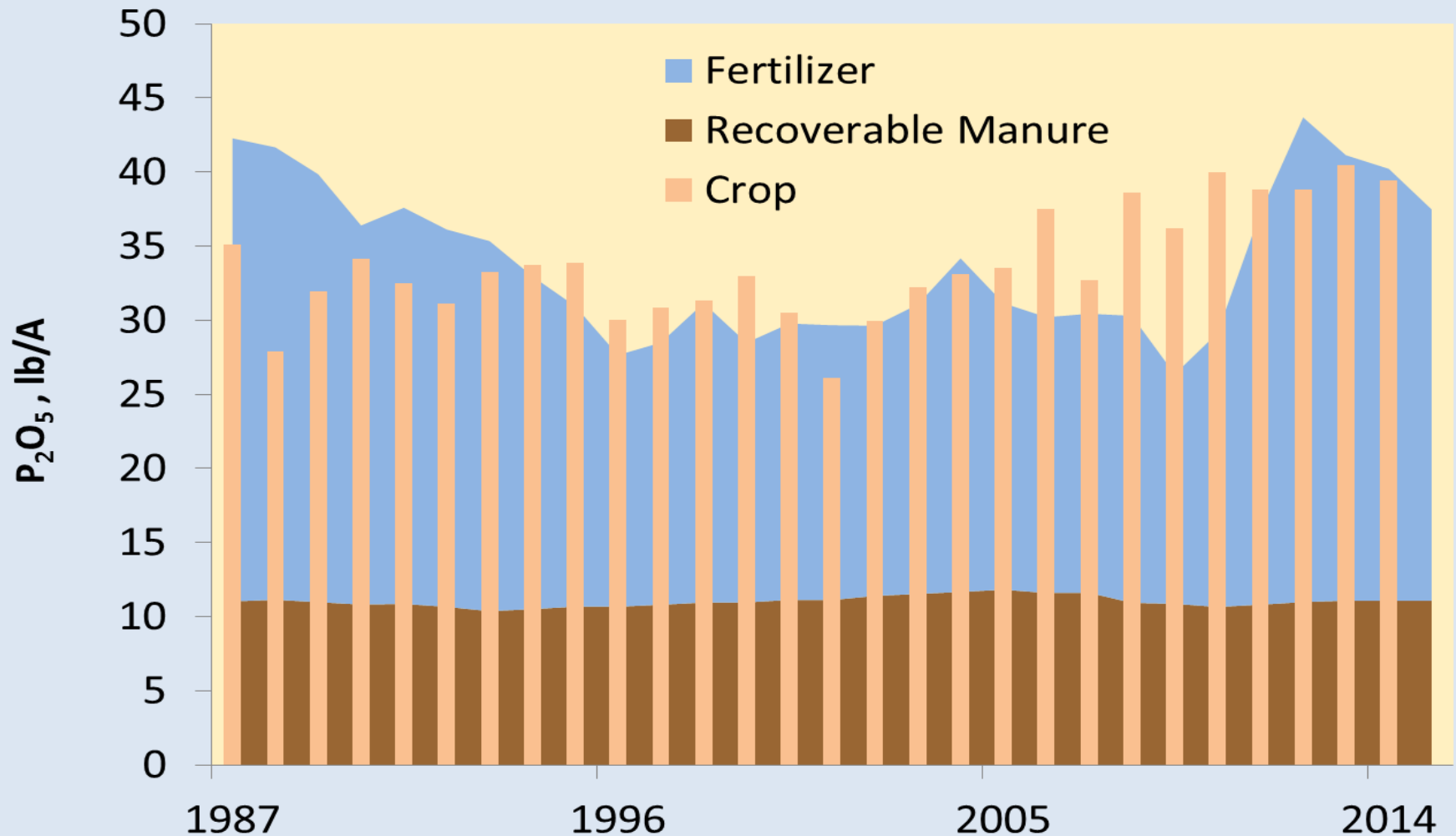


## Cropland P Balance, Western Lake Erie Watershed



1. Crop removal increasing with yield.
2. Application rates falling short of crop removal.

## Ontario Cropland Phosphorus Balance



**Ontario's P balance: more manure than in the Lake Erie watershed**



# Summary

- The sustainability movement can increase public appreciation of industry efforts to implement 4R phosphorus practices.
- The Western Lake Erie 4R Certification program offers a model of 4R implementation that needs adaptation for Ontario.
- The agri-retail industry can help document
  1. trends in source-rate-time-place combinations; and
  2. impacts on yield, soil fertility, nutrient balance and water quality.

