

What are they doing to protect our river?

Our Local Farming Community

Cover Crops



Image Credit: Seneca Conservation District

Protecting Our Waters with:

- ⇒ **Cover Crops**
- ⇒ **4R Nutrient Management Program**
- ⇒ **Conservation Tillage**
- ⇒ **Drainage Control**

Water Quality Benefits from Cover Crops

Erosion Control — helps to keep soil on the fields, rather than entering the river during rain events.

Improved Soil Health — increases water retention capacity which reduces runoff.

Improved Fertility — soil nutrients are retained lessening the need for fertilizers.

Less than 2% of phosphorus farmers apply is lost!

What are the 4 R's

1. Right Source —

Fertilizer type
matches crop
needs

2. Right Rate —

Fertilizer amount
matches crop
needs

3. Right Time —

Nutrients present
when crops need
them

3. Right Place —

Keep nutrients
where crops can
use them



<https://www.nutrientstewardship.com/4rs/>

Looking Toward the Future

Improving technologies such
as subsurface injection of
fertilizers

Need for greater adoption of
Best Management Practices
More efforts to improve soil
health



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