



Biological Farming

10/18/2013

2013 was another interesting year to be a farmer. Some of us had excellent crops, and some of us took quite a beating. Many of us experienced a growing season that started out good, then turned way too wet, then turned way too dry. Even if that wasn't the case in your area, you remember years like that in the past, and you'll have some like that again in the future.

A season with both excess moisture and drought provides some unique opportunities. You have a chance to (1) check out the drainage on your farm, (2) check out your soil's water holding capacity, (3) observe how easily your soil erodes, and (4) observe your soil's "resiliency" – how well it recovers. You should also seize the opportunity to evaluate how the wet and dry conditions affected your yields. Take time to study your yield maps and/or make some notes.

In-season reports from several long-time Biological Farmers were that their crops were handling the moisture stress much better than their neighbors' crops. Field visits and lab tests confirmed and explained their observations. The biologically farmed land had better soil tilth and less compaction. It had also accumulated more soil carbon; therefore it had more water holding capacity. The biological system made improvements in the soil which appear to be translating into very nice yields.

So, what is Biological Farming? Here's a quick recap of a few principles and practices. These have been discussed in greater detail in past issues of *Ground Work* and can be found on our website – www.agrienergy.net.

- **Residue Management** – Use **Residuce™** on your fields in the fall to accelerate decomposition of crop “trash” and recycle nutrients for use by next year’s crop.
- **Wise Tillage** – Choose the proper tillage tool for your soil type and terrain. Stay off your fields when the soil is too wet, too dry, and/or too cold.
- **Inoculate with Live Microbials** – Use **SP-1™**, **Myco Seed Treat™**, and **Residuce™** every chance you get.
- **Cover Crops** – Use cover crops to build soil carbon. Keep something growing on your land year-round if possible.

Give your **AgriEnergy Resources** representative a call if you're ready to implement Biological Farming principles, practices, and products on your farm; or if you want to improve your existing Biological Farming system.

Enjoy better soil tilth, less compaction, more soil carbon, more resilient soils, and higher and more consistent yields. Enjoy being a Biological Farmer!