



Soil Health Matters!

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Having healthy agricultural soils is a noble goal. There are signs, such as visible white rot fungi degrading old residues, that indicate a field is healthy. But restoring a weak field to health is often very difficult and can be costly.

While an abstract goal of achieving superior soil health is laudable, there must be reason behind a willingness to expand the effort. Soil health begins in the rhizosphere, but for now, here are some reasons why soil health is our main focus:

- ***Pollutant reduction.*** Rather than sending pollutants down the river, why not leave them in place for proper microbial degradation?
- ***Improved hunting on the land.*** Time after time, we receive reports, that after incorporating biological practices, there are more birds and deer.
- ***Reducing reliance on external chemical inputs.*** There have been numerous reports from growers who, after managing soil health, say the low end of a pesticide label now gets the job done vs. having to be at the high

- end previously. Or, that they need fewer plant protection applications than before.
- **Improved product quality.** Perhaps not a huge deal for those who are growing row crop commodities where only yield matters, but for those who grow produce or specialty grains, this is a very big deal.
- **Improved yield.** While the incorporation of principles and products to improve soil health is no guarantee of yield boost, oftentimes the best fields on a farm are those with the healthiest soils.

Contact your **AgriEnergy Rep** to learn how to boost the health of your soils today! **815.872.1190.**