



## ***Are you ready for 2018?***

*10/06/2017*

Are you ready for next year? Now is the time to get ready and [build your soil health](#) for the year to come.

Performing a soil test is a great way to start. A soil test will give you a picture of the fertility level of your soil including what nutrients your soil needs in order to be productive. Seeding cover crops and applying lime, gypsum, manure, and other soil amendments are great ways to add fertility potential for next year.

Using biology in the fall has its benefits as well. AgriEnergy's **Residue®** program has shown to help break down left-over harvest residue more quickly, and by applying in the fall, gives the organisms more time to work. **Residue®**, along with abundant soil moisture over the winter will trigger decomposition and lead to a mellower seedbed next spring; one that warms up fast because residue has begun to darken and crumble. Remember, the greater the soil biology activity, the greater your soil productivity and fertility will be. This gives your soil a head start on next year's crop.

Below is a picture of a Michigan hay field where **Residue®** was applied. **Residue®**, along with a carbon source, can show dramatic results such as faster green-up and thatch breakdown.



The treated strip shows **Residue®**, compared to the untreated where nothing was applied. The treated strip allows for moisture and nutrients to easily absorb into the soil. Water holding capacity is also a benefit, as well as converting thatch to recaptured carbon instead of just weathering away.

Take this close-up of the untreated strip - lots of trash and thatch soaking up moisture, water not going to the roots.



Compared to this close-up of the treated side - very clean, very little thatch, lots of hay growth, moisture is able to soak directly into the soil and root bed.



Let's start thinking about next year now by looking for ways to prepare your soil for peak performance. Your local **AgriEnergy sales professionals** are able to find ways to help you build soil health and add value to your farm. Call today! **815.872.1190.**