



Welcome to Ground Work

Dear J.P.,

A large grower in Wisconsin recently told Gary Campbell that, for the first time ever, his 2010 corn-after-corn yields were as high as corn-after-beans. Typical yields in his area show a 30-40 bushel drop on corn-after-corn. How did he finally break through that barrier? A few facts to consider:

1. He has been on an AgriEnergy Resources biological program for 5 years.
2. He has used Residue on his corn-on-corn acres the past 4 years.
3. Each of these years, he has covered about 1/3 of the corn acres with Residue in the fall, and applied the rest in the spring. Both approaches yielded similar results.

Several years ago, a new customer in Michigan applied Residue to corn stalks in mid-April, then planted soybeans one month later. When Gary Campbell visited the

farm in late May, he and the customer looked at a field that was treated with Residue. At first glance, many stalks were still on the surface and the farmer wondered if there was any difference. So Gary helped him look closer, and twist and break open some stalks. The stalks were brittle, the pulp was gone, and the skin had lost its waxy sheen. Obvious signs of degradation. Then Gary and the farmer walked across the road to a field that he had not treated, but was the same soil type and was tilled and planted the same day. The untreated stalks were waxy and stringy (not brittle) and still had wet, mushy pulp inside. While not visible from a windshield inspection, a closer look definitely told the farmer the Residue was working after only 1 month!

The point of these and numerous other examples is that **spring is a great time to apply Residue**, particularly in high residue situations like corn stalks, cover crops, or forages. Investing in a Residue application will not only decompose residue faster, it will increase nutrient cycling and prepare the seedbed for a successful crop, creating profitable results this season.