



Welcome to Ground Work

Welcome to **Ground Work** – an electronic news bulletin from AgriEnergy Resources.

Ground Work is designed to provide timely Biological Farming information and insights in a quick-and-easy-to-read format. We will cover a variety of topics. Some of these topics may be more relevant to your operation than others; but all should provide tips to help you become a more efficient grower of high quality, nutrient-dense food, feed and fiber.

In the weeks ahead we will share information about improving fertilizer efficiency, and about improving the productivity and value of your soil each and every year through carbon sequestration. So ... let's get started with our first **Ground Work** article ...

What is Biological Farming?

Biological Farming is managing our soil air, water, and residue with biology.

Managing our Air

- We must maintain adequate pore space
- How do we accomplish this?
 - By using proper calcium amendments
 - Mechanically with iron and diesel

- With well-nourished little livestock – microbes

Managing our Water

- We must strive for adequate moisture
- We must drain excess water
- We must build water holding capacity into our topsoil with carbon (organic matter)
- An active microbial biomass will:
 - Improve drainage
 - Add carbon
 - Reduce drought stress
- We can maximize capillary action with:
 - Superior tilth
 - Elimination of compacted zones

Managing our Residue

- We must implement wise tillage practices to maximize the building of organic matter
- We must choose the tillage method that will support the greatest number of microbes per acre
- We must make decisions with several criteria in mind, including:
 - Are our soils highly erodible ... or not?
 - Do we farm sands ... or clays ... or ???
 - Do we live in a warm climate ... or a cool climate?

With Biology

- It is biology that drives:
 - Tilth
 - Nutrient efficiency
 - Nutrient-dense crops
 - A healthy phyllosphere
 - Proper residue decomposition for carbon and nitrogen sequestration

*AgriEnergy's **SP-1** and **Residue** are live microbial products essential to successful Biological Farming. Both **SP-1** and **Residue** offer significant benefits throughout the growing season. Currently, we're fast approaching the optimal time for using **Residue** in most situations – right after the crops come off in the fall. With that in mind, we'll start a four-week series on **Residue** in a couple weeks.*

The above concepts, well implemented, will greatly improve nutrient efficiency. Successful Biological Farmers are able to significantly reduce their rates of added nitrogen and phosphate. As fertilizer prices head to ridiculous levels again, AgriEnergy Resources can help you retain more profit with these proven concepts. Plus, new information is surfacing about how and when to stimulate the soil and the crop. Expect data soon to help you make better decisions for 2012.

Feel free to share this information with your friends, neighbors and family members. If you know someone who would like to be added to our e-list, please direct them to our website (www.agrienergy.net) or have them call the office with their e-mail addresses. 815-872-1190.

If you are searching for an AgriEnergy associate in your area, give us a call. We probably have a dealer or distributor near you. These business men and women are very familiar with conditions in your area, and are anxious to help you implement Biological Farming practices and principles.

Also, if you have ideas for topics you would like us to address in the future, let us know. Contact us at info@agrienergy.net.

Again, welcome to **Ground Work**. We hope you find these messages to be stimulating, challenging and profitable!