



THE DIRT!

SOILBIOTICS COMPANY E-NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

There's Still Time to Apply for FFA Scholarships!!

SoilBiotics is proud to help sponsor our future ag leaders in FFA. In 2017, the National FFA Organization awarded \$2.7 million in scholarships. Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. The selection process takes into account the whole student - FFA involvement, work experience, supervised agricultural experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics. For 2018 scholarships, go to the national FFA site: <https://www.ffa.org/scholarships>.

Online Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. EST

Signature Page Postmark Deadline: Feb. 8, 2018

Not an FFA Member? Don't Worry!

In 2018, America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders (presented by Monsanto Fund), Dean Foods, Iowa Interstate Railroad Ltd., National Mastitis Council, Rose Acre Farms and the Edgar and Ann Duskin Southern Crop Production Association/FFA Agriculture Leadership Scholarship Fund are offering scholarships available to non-FFA members. Check scholarship catalog descriptions for eligibility. FFA uses one online application for members and nonmembers. Applicants will be directed to the appropriate questions based on membership response.

Do You Have "The Dirt" on Your Dirt?

Are you wondering if you should you run soil tests on your farm this spring? If you didn't get tests last fall, then you should. Think about your cost per acre in fertilizer, and contrast that with the relatively low cost for testing. How else to know you're properly investing your fertilizer dollars? Without doing comprehensive soil testing, you're basically guessing at the fertilizer program. And that can have real dollar effects at harvest time.

There is one school of thought that you test now and then do primary fertilizing in the fall, with minimal fertilizing at planting. However, the variable factors that will occur during the growing season (rain or drought, harvest residue and organic matter mineralization, etc.) means that you can may get misleading actual results. Most advisors will tell you to test and then immediately fertilize.

Growers can work with one of our partners, GMS Laboratories in Cropsey, IL (<http://www.gmslab.com/>) which offers the SoilBiotics Soil Testing Program. This is a soil analysis program that was created by GMS and SoilBiotics with a focus on understanding the crop production capabilities of each field with respect to available nutrients. This really aids in determining your dry P and K fertility requirements.

Freight Update

We continue to hear from our vendors and logistics firms that motor freight availability remains very tight and that everyone should plan their ordering as far in advance as possible. Normal delivery time ranges are being extended due to a shortage of trucks, and now that a new electronic logging requirement went into effect in December, driver shortages are being encountered. So, we once again ask that you try to order as far in advance as possible to make sure you have product ready.

Reminder on Seed Treatment

Don't forget to call your SoilBiotics sales representative or the office and ask about [1 – Seed Treatment](#) and [Organic 1r – Seed Treatment](#), which increase the ability of seedlings to quickly outgrow insect and disease pressure, thereby reducing the need for fungicides and insecticides. SoilBiotics [1 – Seed Treatment](#) and [Organic 1r – Seed Treatment](#) can be applied to seeds up to 5 month's pre-plant.

Looking to have a Winter Meeting? Talk to your SoilBiotics Rep or call SoilBiotics today!

Upcoming Tradeshow

- The Midwest Ag Expo: January 24-25 in Gordyville, IL.

SoilBiotics.com | 815-929-1752 | 2902 W State Route 17 | Kankakee, IL 60901

