



# THE DIRT!

SOILBIOTICS COMPANY E-NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

## How Dry Is It?

Following what for many growers was a cooler, wetter spring, many agricultural areas in the U.S. are under mild-to-severe drought stress. The government drought monitoring service reports that a little over 46% of the U.S. is experiencing drought conditions of some sort. (click here to see their website: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/>). In our April newsletter we talked about how severe weather fluctuations are occurring more often and referenced a good article from Prairie Farmer about change in patterns here in Illinois. Many states have reported similar changes. Here's the link again in case you missed it: <http://www.prairiefarmer.com/weather/weather-changing-storm>.

Humic products can play a very important part in how your soil handles water. SoilBiotics products, when used as a component of long-term crop programs, can help mitigate weather fluctuations by helping you better manage soil fertility, pH levels, water retention, soil porosity and percolation, plant health and vigor and much more. For a little more in-depth science, take a look at a related article on our website in the Education section at [http://soilbiotics.com/Humic\\_Acid\\_Healthy\\_Soil.pdf](http://soilbiotics.com/Humic_Acid_Healthy_Soil.pdf).

Then give us a call to make sure your program is addressing long-term the soil/water relationship.

## Soil Health and Crop Residue Maintenance Programs:

Take a look at the product pages on our website to review the following products for use in your soil improvement and residue maintenance programs: **Organic 2r – Soil Boost; 3 – Growth Boost/Organic 3r – Growth Boost; Organic 4r – Foliar Concentrate; Organic 5r – Soil Boost EA; SB5500** and **eFISHnt 5-1-2**.

We can help you implement a comprehensive soil health program. SoilBiotics products will help make the best use of your crop residues, breaking them down and converting them to useful plant nutrients and organic matter.

## Gophers? Nope, Just Backhoes:

Any of our customers who may have passed by our offices on IL State Route 17 in Kankakee may have thought we had a bad case of burrowing rodents. Nope, we're expanding our capabilities to better serve growers by putting in a new facility for SoilBiotics **OS-46**, a new ready-to-use, urea-based granular fertilizer. **OS-46** is a unique formulation of high-quality 46-0-0 urea and SoilBiotics **4 – Ultra Boost**. We are excited to watch our new facility take shape and will keep you posted on progress.

## Consulting Services Partner:

SoilBiotics has several partner companies, including Fertility Management Systems (FMS). FMS offers agricultural consulting services for nitrogen management, yield data analysis, soil health, plant health, crop residue management, variable rate application, and overall, fertility recommendations. Contact Mark at (815) 378-9948 or [mark@fertilitysolution.net](mailto:mark@fertilitysolution.net).

## Some Reminders:

The kids will be heading back to school, and we're reprinting some suggestions for teenage drivers, some of whom may be driving to school for the first time. These new or inexperienced drivers will have run-ins with large, slow-moving machinery; loose gravel and soft shoulders; and wildlife such as deer crossing roadways. Remind them to:

- Always wear seat belts and insist that passengers do, as well.
- Drive cautiously and within the speed limit.
- Be patient when driving behind a large or slow-moving vehicle; be aware you may not be able to see oncoming traffic.
- Pass only when the road is clear.
- Never let people ride in the bed of a pickup.

And, if your sons or daughters are looking at studying for a career in agriculture or an ag-related field, scholarships are out there, but it may be difficult to find them. Most state farm bureaus and agricultural associations are great sources of information on available scholarships. So, make sure to contact them and ask for assistance.

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