



MAIZE GROWERS ASSOCIATION MAIZE NUTRITION DAYS 2017

'Profit from improving the quality of maize silage diets for dairy cows'

Based at a local meeting room, following introductions Mike will lead the group through sessions, as set out below. While some of the discussion will take place in the meeting room the plan is to spend time on farm to review the practicalities of feeding livestock. The proposed sessions are set out below.

Introductions. Purpose and objectives of maize feeding days, details of farm.

Session 1. Assessing maize crop maturity and ensiling management.

- The importance of hitting target maize DM%.
- Collection of a representative sample and subsequent DM% assessment
- Ensiling best practice.

Session 2. Removing silage from the silo (at silo feed face).

- Safety. Risks, policy, procedures.
- Causes of aerobic spoilage – top layer, feed face. Changes in silage composition and feed value.
- Mycotoxins - formation, risk to livestock health and productivity, signs of mycotoxicosis.
- Target feed out progression rate.
- Sampling silage – how to take samples for lab analysis, sampling frequency.
- Effect of rain on feed face.

Session 3. Mixing feeds (at feed trough).

- Mixing sequence and duration.
- How to avoid sorting – chop length, compact diets.
- Stimulating rumination.

Session 4. Forage quality, diet formulation and environmental impact of feeds.

- NDF and fibre requirements, NDF digestibility.
- Least cost v best diet for the cows' health.
- Choice of supplements.
- Environmental impact – reducing diet carbon footprints.

Session 5. Assessing success and failure

- Feed efficiency; milk per tonne of silage.
- Indicators of unbalanced diet (e.g. cud spitting, matted coat, urine drinking, mineral consumption, very thin or very fat cows).
- Faeces composition. Liquidity, large particles.

VENUES & DATES

Please complete and send, together with payment, to the MGA Office, Town Barton Farm, Sandford, Crediton, Devon. EX17 4LS. Tel: 01363 775040 email: info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk

The cost is £100/head inc. VAT

The events will have a 10.00 am start and conclude with a hot lunch at approximately 1.30 pm.

I would like to book _____ places at (please tick box to indicate which venue)

- 7th September – Rowley Farm, Black Park Road, Wexham, Buckinghamshire, SL3 6DR Courtesy of John Whitby and Partners.
- 19th September – Park Farm, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4EH – Courtesy of Michael Christensen and Partners.
- 21st September – Marriott Farm, Cotes de Val, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4LY – Courtesy of Nigel Smith and Partners.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post code _____

Tel No _____ I enclose a cheque payment of _____