

MGA TIMES



Lloyds TSB
Agriculture



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In this Issue **MGA CONFERENCE 23RD FEBRUARY 2012**

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Within this mailing you will have received a second copy of the flyer/booking form for this year's MGA conference. The MGA's flag ship event will take place at the RAC in Cirencester and provides a great opportunity to update yourself with the latest maize growing information, including a full review of the MGA research programme from last year led by Simon Draper. The conference is open to members and non members (ticket prices are higher for non members) and should be well worth the trip. If you are coming along, please think about filling your car up with your neighbours, be they in or outside the MGA club. The more the merrier and the better the chance we have of signing them up as well.



Information request from MGA member

Dear MGA Member,
I am writing to ask if anyone knows anything about any trials to grow 'twin row' in UK. I was looking into this as part of my Nuffield Scholarship trust and saw plenty growing in USA, but was unaware of any trials in this country. If anyone has any information, I would be very interested to hear any results. I recently saw a trial in the Portsmouth area.
Best regards
Alistair House
a.house@farmline.com

NITROGEN PREDICTOR FORM ENCLOSED

Variety choice made, the next thing on the maize 2012 list will be how much fertiliser will the crop need? With this in mind, we would encourage members to use the MGA Nitrogen Predictor to calculate their bagged fertiliser nitrogen requirements. The Nitrogen predictor, originally designed ten or so years ago takes into account location, soil conditions, target drilling and harvest dates, as well as the nutrient content of any manures applied, to come up with a bagged nitrogen requirement for the crop. The predictor is well proven over time, with farmer feedback over the years being used to update the original research based systems. The predictor has also been used by farmers to justify their nitrogen applications to NVZ inspectors and therefore, goes some way to meet the NVZ record keeping requirements. Fill in and return the enclosed N predictor input form to get the ball rolling.

Agrii[™]

Anvil - 1st choice
Atrium - 1st choice
Capris - 1st choice
Salgado - 1st choice

For more information, please consult your Agrii contact or call Brendan Paul on 07767 310454



THE BIRDS!!

Feedback from members suggests that the Starlings are back this year, although some feel that, perhaps due to the relatively mild weather, they have more winter feed options open to them and as a result are not concentrating quite so much on maize clamps/troughs. Long may it continue we say. For those affected, we thought it might be useful to pass on some member feedback.

Birds of Prey on farm – An email from Richard Roberts, past MGA Council member, who farms in Somerset reminded us of the potential to use birds of prey to frighten off starlings. Rather than bring hawks in to the farm on a one off basis as done in past MGA/MDC work, Richard has put kestrel and owl boxes within his buildings and now has both species living alongside his beef stock. By Richards own admission the farm was “plagued” with starlings in the past, with feed covered in muck, feed intakes reduced and hundreds of kilograms of feed damaged on a regular basis. Richard points out that while the birds remain in the surrounding fields, they have yet to venture near the clamps or feed troughs this year and he can only put this down to the presence of the resident kestrels and owls.

For those unable to make the Maize and Birds meeting held in Somerset last autumn, some of the papers presented that day are available from the MGA website. www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk.

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Syngenta Seeds Ltd. Registered Office
30 Priestley Road, Surrey Research Park,
Guildford GU2 7HY. G002338.



MGA MINERAL SPECIFICATIONS

The MGA minerals, which continue to be manufactured and distributed on our behalf by Mole Valley Farmers, represent good value for money and continue to be formulated to 100% of the stated specification. It is also worth noting that the basic formulations can be tweaked for individual farmers and that mineral straights such as limestone flour etc can be purchased under the MGA Banner. Please remember that the MGA receive a small commission for any minerals sold and that this money goes to subsidise further MGA Research and Development.

The specifications for the four main MGA minerals are shown here. To learn more contact the office or Mole Valley direct 01278 444829.

		MGA 200 SuperSpec	MGA Grazing	MGA Dry Cow	MGA Youngstock
		50779V3	50780V3	50781V3	50783V3
Calcium	%	25.5	11.8	1.7	24.0
Phosphorus	%	3.0	4.0	4.0	2.5
Sodium	%	3.0	8.0	12.1	8.0
Magnesium	%	7.0	20.0	25.0	3.0
Manganese	mg/kg	6,000	6,000	4,000	3,000
Copper	mg/kg	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Zinc	mg/kg	6,000	6,000	4,000	3,000
Cobalt	mg/kg	40	60	45	40
Iodine	mg/kg	500	400	560	400
Selenium	mg/kg	40	30	50	25
Vitamin A	iu/kg	600,000	300,000	500,000	400,000
Vitamin D3	iu/kg	120,000	60,000	100,000	80,000
Vitamin E	mg/kg	2,500	700	4,000	1,500
Vitamin B12	mcg/kg	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
usage rate	g/head/day	75 - 150	75 - 150	75 - 150	70 - 100
In-Feed product		yes	yes	yes	yes

OPEN THAT VARIETY BOOKLET!

MGA Recommended First Choice Maize Varieties 2012

In this booklet
How to choose the right maize variety for your farm
Variety results from NIAB.
Variety choice for biogas production.
Maize under plastic.

Booklet Priced £20.00 To non-MGA members

This year's MGA Recommended Variety list, a copy of which you should have received in your last mailing, is one of, if not the, most important publications we produce each year. Alongside the background information, the booklet contains the tried and tested “7 Steps to Choosing the Correct Variety For your Farm” process, as well as the agronomy and nutritional data for the best independently tested varieties available in the UK during 2012. You will see that following some deliberation, we have developed an MGA Maturity Group system which will continue to break down the full list into groups that we believe will be more useful to members, than the alternative being offered.

A dip in to the tables also reminds me that the benefits of choosing the best varieties are significant. If we take yield for example, the range in the main MGA groups between the lowest and highest yielding varieties is in the region of 7%. Such a yield difference can be directly translated to a cost per tonne of DM saving. An 8% saving in maize growing costs is not to be sniffed at, even if an element of this saving is lost in higher seed costs.

With claims that seed supplies will be tight this year, now is the time to select what varieties you want, so go and get it ordered if you are not to be disappointed.