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In This Issue

- ◆ Conference reminder
- ◆ Training days reminder
- ◆ What maize wants & What maize got—John Morgan
- ◆ Lessons learnt from 2012 & how to make the maize last—Chris Savery
- ◆ New MGA Mineral Prices

OPTIONAL TOUR OF THE KEMBLE FARMS BIOGAS DIGESTER ADDED TO THE MGA CONFERENCE PROGRAMME.

We are delighted to announce Kemble Farms, Kemble, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6AB have kindly agreed to host an informal visit to their digester on the morning of the MGA conference, 27th February. The early morning tour will kick off on the farm at **8.00 am** sharp in order that all delegates are able to register at the college for 10.00 am for the conference proper. It is hoped that the tour of the digester will tie in with a paper presented by John Jackson of Severn Trent on the theme of biogas production 2 years on. We are very grateful for David Ball and his team for hosting the visit.

Those interested in attending should contact the office to let us know and watch the MGA web site for specific details, as to where to meet on the day. www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk/events We will do our best to signpost the farm walk.

MAKING THE BEST OF THE COLD SNAP

Whilst I know it's only January and much too early to be thinking about drilling maize, the cold "drier" weather does perhaps provide a chance to get onto damaged fields to do some remedial work.

A lot of fields coming to maize are those where the soil structure was severely damaged due to the wet conditions during last summer and at harvest time. Now is the time to take a look around and where there is standing water, due to ruts or other wheelings, then thought should be put to how to drain this water away.

Moling!

With severe frosts forecast, there may be a chance to get on the fields to the wet holes and damaged headlands and do some 'moling'. Unlike traditional mole draining, the mole in this instance needs to be pulled directly into the ditch and put in shallowly (no more than 10 inches) to aid the draining of water from these wet patches. Later in the year when the field has dried out, these 'moles' need to be subsoiled out to avoid them channelling water to the wrong areas of the field.

To achieve shallow moling, make the leg deeper so that the beam floats as opposed to being dragged. If you cannot get hold of a mole plough, a single leg subsoiler will do a similar job (ideally without the wing). Please remember that whatever you use, the machine should be set to a shallow depth.

If you can't get to the wet hole, start at the ditch and go as far as you can and then back up to the wet hole and join the two together.

If you don't get the promised cold weather and therefore cannot travel, there is still work that needs to be done. Keeping the ditches clear will certainly help - in the past 10 years ditch maintenance has unfortunately taken a back seat on many farms and in this wet time lack of maintenance is certainly starting to show.

For those needing to apply FYM and slurry, then the weather may well provide an opportunity to apply some without causing too much damage to the land. Do remember though that FYM and slurry can't be applied to land which remains frozen throughout the day.



Maximum energy

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MGA NITROGEN PREDICTOR

The heavy rain during the winter has no doubt washed out much of the available nitrogen for this springs crops and as a consequence careful Nitrogen planning will be more important than ever. The Nitrogen Prediction service makes use of past MGA and external nitrogen research to generate nitrogen recommendations on an individual field basis. These recommendations take account of previous crop history, soil type, winter rainfall and organic manure applications and as such meet the NVZ field nitrogen plan requirements. The Predictor will also forecast the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) N Max figure for the crop, assuming the recommendation is adhered to. With Nitrogen prices still high it pays to make use of the Nitrogen predictor to ensure none is wasted optimum crop yields are not compromised. You can download an N Predictor input form from the MGA website or give Jean a ring and she will send you a hard copy.

MGA MINERAL PRICES REDUCED! - by between £5 & £12/tonne

MGA - SuperSpec 200

Zone		1 -1.99 tonne	2 - 3.99 tonnes	4 - 6.99 tonnes	7 - 9.99 tonnes
1	Devon, Somerset,	£388	£386	£384	£380
2	Avon, Glos, Wilts, Dorset, Cornwall.	£391	£388	£385	£381
3	Oxford, Midlands, Wales, London, South East, Hants Essex, Yorkshire, Lancs.	£409	£403	£396	£393
4	Cumbria, North East	£414	£411	£403	£400

MGA - Grazing Mineral

Zone		1 -1.99 tonne	2 - 3.99 tonnes	4 - 6.99 tonnes	7 - 9.99 tonnes
1	Devon, Somerset,	£454	£452	£450	£446
2	Avon, Glos, Wilts, Dorset, Cornwall.	£457	£454	£451	£447
3	Oxford, Midlands, Wales, London, South East, Hants Essex, Yorkshire, Lancs.	£475	£469	£462	£459
4	Cumbria, North East	£480	£477	£469	£466

MGA - Dry Cow Mineral

Zone		1 -1.99 tonne	2 - 3.99 tonnes	4 - 6.99 tonnes	7 - 9.99 tonnes
1	Devon, Somerset,	£548	£546	£544	£540
2	Avon, Glos, Wilts, Dorset, Cornwall.	£551	£548	£545	£541
3	Oxford, Midlands, Wales, London, South East, Hants Essex, Yorkshire, Lancs.	£569	£563	£556	£553
4	Cumbria, North East	£574	£571	£563	£560

MGA - Youngstock Mineral

Zone		1 -1.99 tonne	2 - 3.99 tonnes	4 - 6.99 tonnes	7 - 9.99 tonnes
1	Devon, Somerset,	£325	£323	£321	£317
2	Avon, Glos, Wilts, Dorset, Cornwall.	£328	£325	£322	£318
3	Oxford, Midlands, Wales, London, South East, Hants Essex, Yorkshire, Lancs.	£346	£340	£333	£330
4	Cumbria, North East	£351	£348	£340	£337