

MGA TIMES



Correspondence Address: Town Barton Farm, Sandford, Crediton, Devon. EX17 4LS. Telephone: 01363 775040 Fax: 01363 776938
E-mail: info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk Website: www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk

<p>In this issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Top ten tips for after harvest—Simon Draper. ◆ Buffer feeding this Autumn—Chris Savery. ◆ Silage analysis. ◆ Dairy Event 2006. ◆ Diary dates. ◆ Fertiliser security rules. 	<p>DISCOUNTED SILAGE ANALYSIS</p>
<p>GRAIN MAIZE</p>	<p>With maize harvest only a few weeks away, please take advantage of this discounted analysis service for MGA Members only. Prices include sample kits with first class priority postal service, guidelines on sampling/packaging and your analysis results, which you will receive by post. The MGA office will simultaneously receive a copy of your analysis, which will be stored as a backup and used for reference <i>if necessary</i>, should you require any ration formulation advice from Chris Savery.</p>
<p>EMM</p>	<p>ANALYSES AVAILABLE (Prices subject to VAT)</p>
<p>Are you interested in grain maize? Elveden Farms in Suffolk are kindly hosting a grain maize demonstration on Thursday 16th November on behalf of the MGA. We will have a detailed programme in next months mailing, but put the date in your diary.</p>	<p>Maize Silage Standard Package. £12.00 <i>DM, Crude Protein, D Value, ME, FME, Fibre, Ash, pH, Ammonia Nitrogen, Fermentation Acids, Sugar, Starch, eRDP, DUP values from MP protein system.</i></p>
	<p>Grass Silage Standard Package. £12.00 <i>DM, Crude Protein, D Value, ME, FME, Fibre, Ash, pH, Ammonia Nitrogen, Fermentation Acids, Sugar, eRDP, DUP values from MP protein system.</i></p>
	<p>Grass Silage Package with FIM (Feed Into Milk) Predictions. £13.00 <i>As standard grass package plus additional Nitrogen and DM values for use with FIM programmes</i></p>
	<p>Wholecrop Silage Standard Package. £12.00 <i>DM, Crude Protein, D Value, ME, Ash, pH, Starch, NCD.</i></p>
	<p>Wholecrop Alkaline Treated. £14.50 <i>DM, Crude Protein, ME, Fibre, Ash, Ammonia Nitrogen, Starch, NCD.</i></p>
	
	<p>Please give the office a ring and I will send on the analysis package to you. Judging by our own experience, the analysis results are sent back within a couple of days of being received by NRM Laboratories.</p>
<p>MGA/BGS MINI CONFERENCE 14TH SEPTEMBER 2006 at TOWN BARTON, SANDFORD, CREDITON. EX17 4LS</p>	
<p>10.30 am Coffee followed by Welcome 10.45 am Tour of MGA Demonstration Site led by Simon Draper and looking at: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Seed dressing options. ◆ Low cost environment friendly establishment. ◆ Maize for grain production. ◆ Maize for energy production. <p>1.00 pm Pasty Lunch. 2.15 pm Maize Agronomy update including the potential for Grain Maize in the South West – Simon Draper, MGA Agronomist. 2.40 pm Maize, Wholecrop and grass silage feeding update – Chris Savery, MGA nutritionist. 3.00 pm Maize for Energy production – John Morgan, MGA office team. 3.30 pm Depart.</p>	

FERTILISER SECURITY— NOW IN FARM ASSURANCE

With much of next years nitrogen fertiliser either on-farm, or soon to be delivered to take advantage of early order discounts, we thought it important to highlight to members the importance of fertiliser security.

For many years, ammonium nitrate (AN) and AN based fertilisers have been used by terrorist organisations in bombing campaigns; examples include Omagh in Northern Ireland and Oklahoma in the USA. It has been estimated that recent AN based bombings, using only 12 tonnes of product, killed over 700 people and caused billions of pounds worth of damage.

These events have prompted the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office to publish guidelines on secure storage of fertilisers, which are being taken up by the farm assurance organisations. These are available on-line at

www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk

A summary of these has been put in to a 10-point plan.

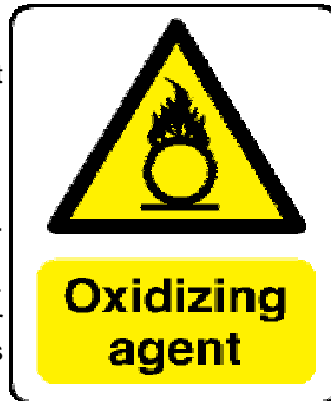
Do Not: -

1. Store fertiliser where there is public access.
2. Leave fertiliser in the field overnight.
3. Store fertiliser near to, or visible from, the public highway.
4. Sell fertiliser unless the purchaser is personally known by you to be a bona-fide farmer user and is aware of the need to follow this guidance.

Do:-

5. Record fertiliser deliveries and usage.
6. Wherever possible, and with regard to HSE safety guidance, store fertiliser inside a locked building or compound.
7. Fully sheet fertiliser when stored out side and regularly check to ensure that the stack has not been tampered with.
8. Carry out regular stock checks.
9. Report immediately any stock discrepancy or loss to the police.
10. Record any manufacture code numbers from the bags and, if available, the number of the detonation resistance test certificate.

It must also be pointed out that land managers are required to notify the HSE & local fire authority by phone if 25 tonnes of dangerous substances are being stored on farm. If **150 tonnes of AN or AN based fertilisers** (containing over 15.75% Nitrogen by weight) are being handled or stored, the notification to the HSE should be in writing.



The MGA will be at this year's Dairy event, in the same position as last year, Stand CS2/540. This year's theme is the N Predictor, we will be explaining how it works and how to make best use and save money on fertiliser.

At this time of year nutrition is also important and Chris Savery will be on the stand at various times during both days to answer any questions you have about feeding maize and wholecrop silage this winter. Please come and visit the MGA stand.



DIARY DATES

Thursday 14th September
MGA/BGS Demonstration site meeting & mini conference at MGA Office Farm, Devon.

Wednesday 20th & Thursday 21st September
DAIRY EVENT at Stoneleigh.

Wednesday 4th October
SW Dairy Show at Shepton Mallet

Wednesday 18th October
MGA/BGS MINI CONFERENCE at Ardingly, Sussex.

Thursday 16th November
MGA GRAIN MAIZE OPEN DAY at Elveden Farms, Suffolk.

MAIZE HARVEST—2006

With the cold wet August cancelling out many of the advances made by crops during July, hopes for an early harvest this year appear to have been all but dashed.

Temperature data shows this August's daily temperatures are around 5 degrees cooler than last August. This contrasts with the picture for July 2006 when temperatures were in the region of 5 degrees higher than those of 2005.

What makes things worse is that many of the crops, particularly those drilled in May, were not able to make the most of the July heat as the maturity time clock does not start ticking until the crop comes into flower.

However, reports from members having drilled early in the South of England, indicate that these crops are fit and being harvested now. This only goes to show, the variation around the country and from farm to farm. Therefore we all need to be checking crops regularly and keeping the contractor informed of estimated harvest dates. For information on dry matter assessments, please give the office a ring. 01363 775040





GROW GRASS

DURING THE WINTER

7.13 dry matter tonnes/ha from 1st cut
Silage Master—NIAB mixture trials, Dartington 2006

AFTER MAIZE GRASS MIXTURE
low cost, high protein forage

For more information, please consult your Masstock contact or call Brendan Paul on 01280 848848