



MAIZE GROWERS ASSOCIATION MAIZE CONFERENCE 2012

 Lloyds TSB | Agriculture

CLAAS



Thursday 23rd February 2012

At

The Boutflour Hall, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.
GL7 6JS



- 10.00 a.m. **REGISTRATION & COFFEE.**
- 10.30 a.m. **WELCOME BY JOHN WHITBY, MGA CHAIRMAN.**
- 10.35 a.m. **OPENING ADDRESS.**
Humphrey Richards, (Lloyds TSB, Senior Agricultural Manager, South West).
- 10.45 a.m. **MAIZE QUALITY ANALYSIS VIA NEAR INFRARED REFLECTANCE SPECTROSCOPY (NIR)- A REPORT ON THE LINK PROJECT LOOKING AT MEASURING MAIZE SILAGE QUALITY VIA NIR AND OTHER ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES.**
Jonathan Blake – (Forage Analytical Assurance Group).
- 11.05 a.m. **FEEDING RUMINANTS – HAVE WE GOT IT WRONG? A CHALLENGING REVIEW OF HOW WE CURRENTLY FEED RUMINANTS AND HOW WE MIGHT DO IT BETTER.**
Andrew Holland – (Ontrak Nutrition)
- 11.35 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK.**
- 12.00 p.m. **GROWING MAIZE FOR BIONENERGY – AN OBJECTIVE VIEW ON THE MAIZE CROP OPTIONS, BE THEY BREEDING, AGRONOMY AND OR QUALITY FOR BIOGAS PRODUCTION IN THE UK.**
John Burgess – (KWS UK Ltd)
- 12.25 p.m. **MAIZE WITHIN MY LOW COSTS MILK PRODUCTION SYSTEM - A REVIEW OF GAVIN'S FARMING SYSTEM AND HOW LOW COST MAIZE CONTINUES TO PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE.**
Gavin Fowler – (Dairy Farmer and winner of Farmers Weekly Dairy farmer of the year 2011)
- 1.00 p.m. **LUNCH.**
- 2.00 p.m. **MGA RESEARCH RESULTS 2011 – DETAILED REPORTING OF THE RESULTS FROM THE EXTENSIVE 2011 MGA AGRONOMY RESEARCH PROGRAMME. TRIALS TO BE REPORTED ON INCLUDE – PRE, POST AND COMBINATION HERBICIDE OPTIONS, CULTIVATION OPTIONS, QUALITY OF MAIZE CUT AT VARYING HEIGHTS, ORGANIC MANURES SPREAD ON GROWING CROPS.**
Simon Draper – (MGA Agronomist) & Neil Groom – (MGA Council and Grainseeds Ltd).
- 2.45 p.m. **“SHORT & SWEET”**
A FUN AND ENTERTAINING CHANCE TO CATCH UP ON ALL THAT IS CURRENT IN THE UK MAIZE SECTOR VIA A QUICK FIRE FIVE MINUTE PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF THE TRADE.

Please complete and send, together with payment, to the MGA Office, Town Barton Farm, Sandford, Crediton, Devon. EX17 4LS. Tel 01363 775040 fax 01363 776938

Member price £45 + VAT, non-member price £60 + VAT. Please note that tickets are non-refundable.

I would like to book _____ member place/s (£54.00) and _____ non-member places (£72.00)

Name: _____ Address: _____

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I enclose a cheque payment of _____

If you prefer to pay by Credit card please contact the MGA Office Tel 01363 775040

MAIZE CONFERENCE

The speakers for the maize conference will be:

HUMPHREY RICHARDS

Humphrey is the Senior Agricultural Manager for Lloyds TSB Agriculture South West. The son of a dairy farming family from South West Wales, he has worked in Lloyds TSB for 30 years heading a team of 32 agricultural managers and support staff covering Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset, as well as acting as the relationship manager for a number of farming enterprises throughout the region. Presently he is a member of the South West Chamber of Rural Enterprise as well as a committee member of Devon County Show, Okehampton Show and Devon Farm Management Association.

JONATHAN BLAKE – MAIZE QUALITY ANALYSIS VIA NEAR INFRARED REFLECTANCE SPECTROSCOPY (NIRS)

Members may well remember Jonathan's short interim summary of this LINK (jointly funded by DEFRA and the Industry) project at the 2010 conference. The project is now virtually complete with the 90 samples of maize, collected from around the country, having been analysed via wet chemistry, NIR and revolutionary gas production technology. Jonathan has been asked to stand up again to summarise the key research findings as well as the more general observations made during what has been a very successful three year project.

ANDREW HOLLAND – FEEDING RUMINANTS, HAVE WE GOT IT WRONG?

Independent nutritionist Andrew is managing director of Ontrak Nutrition Ltd, which employ a team of consultants who advise producers on ruminant nutrition throughout Wales, Scotland, the Midlands and Eastern Europe. Farmer's son Andrew has experience across the industry and has worked on large dairy units, both in the UK and Europe. He also spent ten years on the home farm, before becoming ruminant product manager with a national compound feed manufacturer, with whom he worked for 5 years. Ontrak was formed as an independent nutritional consultancy business in 2005. Over the past 15 months Andrew has gone on to develop a relationship with Bioparametrics and it is as a consequence of this relationship and the on-farm experience he has gained over the years, that his views on ruminant nutrition have changed. Andrew is questioning some of the conventional thinking around ruminant nutrition, including the role of NDF, structural fibre, fats, starch and sugars. Andrew has been asked to set out the logic for his views in his presentation to the conference.

JOHN BURGESS – GROWING CROPS FOR BIOENERGY

John Burgess is no stranger to MGA conferences both in front and behind the speaker's lectern. John first spoke to members while still at the Royal Agricultural College as a student. His subject area was grain maize production and he spoke with real interest and knowledge. Time has moved on and so did John. He now works as maize seed product manager for KWS in the UK and continues to be a key player in the industry. We have in 2012 asked John to come and talk from an independent position about growing crops and particularly maize, for biogas production. We hope John will be able to explain the role of crops as a biogas feedstock, the different crop options as well as the quality requirements for top quality feedstock.

GAVIN FOWLER – MAIZE WITHIN MY LOW COST MILK PRODUCTION SYSTEM

Gavin, who farms in North Devon with his father are long standing members of the MGA and it was with great pleasure that we learnt of his success in this year's Farmers Weekly awards. Gavin's block calving herd of cross bred cows produce profitable milk from a grass based system, in which maize growing and feeding plays an important role. Gavin has been asked to explain the key elements of his farming system and the role of maize within it when he addresses the conference.

SIMON DRAPER & NEIL GROOM – MGA RESEARCH PROGRAMME REVIEW

This MGA double act of Simon Draper (MGA Agronomist) and Neil Groom (MGA Council Member and Trials Contractor) plan to review the trials and results of last year's MGA research programme. Pre and post emergence and combination herbicide trial conclusions, as well as cultivation options, organic manures on growing crops, crop quality when cut at differing heights will all be covered.

BASIS & NROSO POINTS HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR

