



MAIZE GROWERS ASSOCIATION MAIZE CONFERENCE 2017



Thursday 23rd February 2017

At

The Peterborough Arena, East of England Showground,
Peterborough. PE2 6XE

- 9.00 a.m. **REGISTRATION & COFFEE.**
- 9.45 a.m. **WELCOME – STEPHEN TEMPLE, MGA CHAIRMAN.**
- 9.50 a.m. **MAIN SPONSORS MESSAGE – SYNGENTA CROPS UK.**
- 10.00 a.m. **TIM STEPHENS, SENIOR CATCHMENT ADVISOR, WESSEX WATER – MAKING THE CASE FOR
OVERWINTER COVER CROPS.**
- 10.30 a.m. **POUL HOVESEN, HOLKHAM FARMING COMPANY– MY FARMING SYSTEM WITH A FOCUS ON
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT.**
- 11.05 a.m **COFFEE BREAK.**
- 11.25 a.m. **DR KATRIN GERLACH, RESEARCHER/LECTURER AT UNIVERSITY OF BONN - PRACTICALLY
IMPROVING THE FEEDING VALUE OF YOUR MAIZE SILAGE FOR LIVESTOCK AND AD**
- 12.10 pm. **JOHN MORGAN- MGA AND CREEDY ASSOCIATES – THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MGA OFFICE TEAM
AND OUR ONGOING ROLE IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE MAIZE GROWING INCLUDING A REVIEW OF
THE MGA MAIZE CHARTER.**
- 12.30 p.m. **LUNCH.**
- 1.30 p.m. **MAIN SPONSORS MESSAGE – BOCK UK.**
- 1.40 p.m. **MGA RESEARCH RESULTS 2016 – JOHN MORGAN, NEIL GROOM AND OLIVER KNOWLAND WILL
REVIEW THE MGA 2016 AGRONOMY TRIALS.**
- 2.40 p.m. **“SHORT & SWEET”
A FUN AND ENTERTAINING CHANCE TO CATCH UP ON ALL THAT IS CURRENT IN THE UK MAIZE
SECTOR VIA QUICK FIRE FIVE MINUTE PRESENTATIONS FROM OUR COMMERCIAL MEMBERS.**

*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 £50 + VAT, non-member price £66.67 + VAT. Please note that tickets are non-refundable.

I would like to book _____ member place/s (£60.00) and _____ non-member places (£80.00)

Name: _____ Address: _____

_____ Post code _____ Tel No _____

I enclose a cheque payment of _____

The speakers for the maize conference will be:

TIM STEPHENS

Tim's job as a Catchment Adviser for Wessex Water is to improve drinking water quality by working closely with the farmers who surround boreholes and reservoirs used for human water supply. Tim and his colleagues have been carrying out cover crop field trials for the past three winters. He will present the findings from this work and share first hand examples of how maize growers in the Wessex region are growing cover crops to reduce water pollution and improve soil health. Tim will explore when growing a cover crop is appropriate, and when it may not be the best option. He says *'I believe that farmers and water companies can both gain from working together to improve water quality, as well as achieving wider benefits for the public and for our natural environment'*.

POUL HOVESEN

Poul moved to the UK from Denmark in 1987, joining Salle Farms Company as Farms & Estate Manager. Arable farming activities at Salle Farms have since increased to 2,000 hectares (ha), growing cereals, oilseed rape, spring beans and sugar beet. A further 900 ha is farmed in Poland, cropping cereals, oilseed rape and seed potatoes. In 2011, Poul also became Director of Farming for Holkham Farming Company, managing a further 3,000 ha of arable cropping. He was an early adopter of precision farming technology, catchment sensitive farming techniques and environmental stewardship schemes, proving that environmental practices can compliment modern intensive agriculture. Poul will talk to members about his experiences with catchment management farming and cover cropping.

DR KATRIN GERLACH

Dr Katrin Gerlach is a researcher and lecturer at Bonn University where her work is focused on Ruminant Nutrition and Forage Conservation. Having studied agriculture at the University of Bonn, Katrin went on to undertake her PhD at the same institution between 2009 and 2013. The subject of her PhD was „The aerobic deterioration of silages from chemical composition and dietary choice of goats“.

Katrin presented an excellent paper at the European Maize Meeting in France during September, which focused on the impact of harvest DM%, hybrid choice, harvesting/conservation techniques and time on the resultant silage quality and meat and milk production. We have asked Katrin to build on her European Maize Meeting presentation at our conference in February, with the aim of providing practical points that can be used on farm during 2017 and beyond.

MR JOHN MORGAN

MGA office team leader John Morgan is principle consultant with Creedy Associates; the Devon based agricultural consultancy which provides technical and administration support for the MGA. Alongside his MGA role John provides profit focused business and technical advice to individual farmers, plus regional and national organisations. John has particular interest in the sustainable growing and use of forage crops including maize and grass and has been involved via various roles within the MGA for approaching 20 years. John will update conference as to the activities of the MGA office team with a particular focus on the work being done to address the very real and current issues associated with the sustainability of maize growing.

MR OLIVER KNOWLAND

Oliver has been working with Future Biogas Ltd to find suitable feedstock for the companies' anaerobic digesters. Future Biogas has 7 AD plants producing 16 megawatts of electricity or gas. The versatility of the anaerobic digestion process enables a wide range of feedstocks to be used and currently hybrid maize, rye, energy beet and grass are fed in varying proportions at different plants. But we are also looking at perennial feed stocks.

MR NEIL GROOM

MGA Council Member and Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd, Neil Groom will review aspects of the MGA research programme. Neil's experience and knowledge gained from his time heading up the maize work at NIAB and subsequently for Grainseed Ltd is considerable and practical and as a consequence his presentation to conference should be significant.

BASIS, NROSO & DAIRYPRO POINTS WILL BE APPLIED FOR



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