



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023 WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY



AT  
MEADOW SUITE, PARK HOUSE, WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS,  
UNIVERSITY OF READING, RG6 6UR

You are invited to our 2023 Annual Maize Conference. It is being held Wednesday on 8th February 2023 from 8.45am—3:45pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We have an enthusiastic and knowledgeable panel of speakers . Thanks to SAMCO and VADERSTAD for supporting the event.

			
Time	Speaker and Subject		
8.45 a.m.	Registration & coffee		
9:45 a.m.	Welcome - John Jackson, MGA Chairman		
9:50 a.m.	Main sponsors message		
10 a.m.	Dr Heike Molenaar—Maize and beans—”How the Germans do it”		
10:30 a.m.	Ben Hunt—The potential of additional available nitrogen to optimise crop nitrogen supply and reduce		
10:55 a.m.	Coffee break		
11:10am	Will Oliver—Why we farm the way we do		
11:40 a.m.	Neil Groom, Jon Myhill & John Morgan—Lessons to be learnt from recent MGA research & development		
12:10 p.m.	Ellie Sweetman—The importance of ‘proper’ research		
12:30 p.m.	John Davies - The implementation of environmental legislation		
1 p.m.	Lunch		
1:45 p.m.	Chris Reynolds—Introduction to centre of dairy research (CEDAR) visit		
2.15 p.m.	Site visit to CEDAR		
3:45 p.m.	End of Conference		

**Please book via the Eventbrite link below :**

[bit.ly/3WgjVvL](https://bit.ly/3WgjVvL)

Or search Maize Growers Association Conference on Eventbrite

If you have any questions please contact us via:

[www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk](http://www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk)

[info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk)

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## Introducing Our Speakers



### Dr Heike Molenaar

Heike is the legume specialist for bean breeder Van Waveren. Van Waveren have been instrumental in developing the bean varieties, grown alongside maize that are becoming increasingly popular in Germany for their biodiversity, silage protein enhancement and nitrogen fixation potential. Heike's paper will focus on the agronomy of the maize bean mix as well as future challenges.



### Ben Hunt

Ben Hunt is the Catchment Source Manager for Wessex Water. He advises and incentivises farmers to protect and improve raw drinking water quality, in catchments suffering from high levels of nitrates and/or pesticides. By measuring Additionally Available N in soils, Ben has been helping catchment farmers identify opportunities to reduce N rates while maintaining yields and has recently been involved in several reduced N farm trials. Ben is also a 2022 Nuffield Farming Scholar studying how to accelerate the adoption of climate smart agriculture, looking at business models for incentivising this, including soil carbon markets.



### Will Oliver

Harper Adams graduate Will Oliver manages a multi enterprise family farming business in Leicestershire. Key focus's include managing growing costs by using home produced organic manures, soil health, soil organic matter and cover crops. Grain maize is a key crop on the 800 ha's of arable cropping being grown alongside Wheat, Beans and Potatoes. Will is the 2022 Farmers Weekly Arable Farmer of the year.



### Ellie Sweetman Roberts

Ellie Sweetman Roberts, Forage Crop Specialist at NIAB, responsible for maize (and other forage crops) national and descriptive list and commercial trial programmes, technical advice and project work. A background in livestock/mixed farming, with previous roles in higher education and training, agri-environment and knowledge exchange. Research interests in diverse forage cropping systems, grassland, soils, mixed species swards/herbal leys, biodiversity, optimising milk, meat and health through understanding soil-crop-animal interactions and economic and environmental sustainability of the UK livestock industry



### 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 therefore his presentation to conference should be significant.



### Jon Myhill

Jon Myhill: Jon is the MGA agronomist and was the project lead for the non-grass undersowing trials run in 2021 & 2022. Jon is going to explore the results of these trials, as well as provide guidance as to his thoughts on the agronomy the 2023 maize crops.



### John Morgan

Independent consultant with Creedy Associates, John heads up the MGA office team and, for the last three years, was the project lead for the MGA South West Trial Site in Shepton Mallet. John will talk through the results from the last three years trials at site and highlight the lessons learnt.



### John Davies - Senior Advisor, Environment Agency

After working for ADAS and MAFF, John joined the Environment Agency's East Midlands Area in 1999 as Technical Lead for Agriculture. Over a period of about 20 years, he carried out hundreds of regulatory farm inspections before joining the national agriculture team in autumn 2021. His current role is focused on providing technical advice and support on farm regulation within the EA, the wider Defra group and other organisations. John is a qualified agronomist and a member of the BASIS Professional and Environmental Advisers Registers

## Introducing Our Sponsors



*The MGA would like to thank Varderstad and Samco system for kindly sponsoring this conference. It is with their help that super events like this continue to be held.*

