

MGA TIMES



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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2018 MGA CONFERENCE – WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

- In this Issue
- ◆ Eyespot update—Simon Draper
 - ◆ Harvesting maize The effects on quality—Mike Wilkinson
 - ◆ Cover crops—Neil Groom
 - ◆ Invitation to Nutrition feeding days
 - ◆ Costs of Production— John Morgan

The MGA annual conference continues to provide a welcome opportunity for MGA members to meet and learn more about maize from farmers, researchers and other specialists, as well as receive detailed updates on the results of the MGA and other research programmes.

Based on recent success, the conference will once again be located at the East of England Arena and Events Centre, Peterborough in late February with the specific date set for Wednesday 28th. Please put the date and venue in your diaries and watch this space for further information as and when it is released.

BASIS & NROSO POINTS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year we have been allocated 3 BASIS points & 2 NROSO points for annual membership of the Maize Growers Association. If you would like the reference numbers, please give me a ring in the MGA Office on 01363 775040.

- Nutrition feeding days**
- 7th September** - Rowley Farm, Wexham, Slough. SL3 6DR
19th September - Park Farm, Pilton, Somerset. BA4 4EH
21st September - Marriott Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Leicestershire. LE17 4LY
- MGA Conference**
- 28th February 2018** - East of England Showground, Peterborough.



MGA FEEDING TRAINING DAYS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Following on from the success of last years 'Feeding Maize' events, September sees the return of Mike Wilkinson, along with John Morgan, to talk all things maize harvest and feeding. Three events (dates and venues above) are planned to cover as much of the country as possible. Apologies if locations do not work for you. Perhaps you may be willing to host an additional event? Following a practical session focusing on DM% at harvest and how to assess this, in/close to the field sessions on clamp management, mixed ration feeding and forage quality, as well as assessing success and failure will follow. As in the past the target for the events is to be self financing, hence the charge to cover Mike and Johns time. Please fill in and return the reply slip ASAP to secure your place, on what last year turned out to be sell out events.



Assessing the grass silage at Grosvenor Farms last December



The very tidy maize clamp at Grosvenor Farms

DRY MATTER ASSESSMENT MADE SIMPLE

All will, I think recognise the importance of knowing the DM% of feeds offered to livestock and or digesters for that matter. Knowing the feed ingredient DM% allows assessments of overall DM intake to be calculated and tweaks made to ensure optimum production from your animals or AD plant.

Calculating DM% can be daunting, often being left in the hands of the analysis lab, or even worse not done at all. Such an approach however need not be the case, as there are various guides out there as to how to go about DM% testing in the farm office. One such guide, produced by the AHDB and personally tested offers clear guidance to make the job as easy as possible. A copy of the guide can be downloaded from the AHDB web site or requested from Jean in the office.

A word of caution however. Remember the glass of water in the microwave if you do not want to set your sample on fire!



Oops!

MGA FARMER SURVEY

As mentioned in the April MGA Times, we have finished compiling the Farmer survey and it was sent to our farmer members last month. We are very grateful to many of our commercial companies who have come up trumps with a variety of prizes for the draw. To be eligible to be in the draw the form needs to be completed and sent back to the MGA office by **31st August**.

To further encourage you to fill in the form, below is the prize list.

- * Ten bags of maize seed and a visit from a Grainseed representative to help you choose the right variety for your farm.
 - * Maize breeding and growing study tour with Mais-sadour. 3-4 day hosted trip with flights and accommodation included, courtesy of Bright Seeds.
 - * Three bags of Reason maize seed courtesy of Limagrain.
 - * Six x 10kg Umostart Super Zn starter fertiliser courtesy of Sipcarn.
 - * A 100 treated tonne sachet of Maizecool Gold plus branded jacket courtesy of Biotal.
 - * Free Sonido on 10x50 packs of maize seed bought from Agrii.
 - * A model drill and branded fleece courtesy of Vaderstad.
 - * One branded coat courtesy of Pottinger.
 - * A branded fleece courtesy of Agrovista.
 - * A soft shell branded gilet courtesy of Saaten Union.
 - * Branded power banks x 15 courtesy of Syngenta.
- *A multitool for every fully completed survey, with many thanks to Limagrain*.

Having already received at least 45 completed farmer surveys, many answers to the question "What would you most like the MGA to find out on your behalf during the next year?" have been based on the question of catch cropping and cover crops. Neil Groom (MGA Council member) has written a very timely report on the MGA cover crop research conducted in 2015/2016.

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