

# MGA TIMES



MGA 1988 - 2008 (so far!)  
20 years of independent advice for farmers



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

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## GORDON NEWMAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial service celebrating the life and work of Gordon Newman is being held in the College Chapel at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester on the 24th March at 2.00 pm. Please could you let Jean at the office know if you are hoping to attend as there will be tea, biscuits & cakes following the service at about 3pm in the Bathurst suite. The Bathurst suite has been reserved from 12 noon, so if people arrive early they can meet in there. Donations are in aid of the Gordon Newman Travel Award Scheme.

## MGA CONFERENCE 25TH MARCH 2009

The programme for the MGA Conference has now been finalised. This year we have some very topical subjects, which will make it an excellent event. We have lined up some top class speakers, including Leif Knudsen from Denmark, Dai Grove-White, talking about Post Natal depression in cows which should be fascinating, John Whitby and his experiences with maize under plastic for the first time and John Morgan updating us on the NVZ situation. Of course we mustn't forget Simon Draper who will talk us through the MGA small plot trials from 2008 and perhaps if we are lucky, his trip to New Zealand to look at their maize crops.

As the Short and Sweet feature was so popular last year, we are again starting the afternoon session with 10 brave people telling us in 5 minutes about their new products.

After the conference closes, we have been invited to nearby Kemble Farms to have a look at their new, up and running Biogas plant. Having talked about biogas in the last 2 conferences, it will be a great opportunity to see one in action, without having to travel to Germany!

## N MAX – WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT

The new N Max rule for farmers within an NVZ has the potential to pose some real problems. Table 1 shows the N Max limits for those crops that have one. The N Max rules mean that across the farm the amount of N applied to the whole area of a crop type (as kg N), must not exceed the N max limit for this area (as kg N). Both fertiliser N, plus crop available livestock manure N need to be taken into account. There are set minimums for the available livestock manure N.

The MGA Nitrogen predictor can now work out a **predicted** farm N max for forage maize. To make this possible all the maize grown on the farm needs to be included on the N predictor input form as well as actual application rates of organic manure. If you want a predicted N max calculation done for your maize crops, please indicate so by ticking the box on the N predictor input form.

Having processed 2 predictors, with the new N predictor form, one farmer was under the N max and the other would, if applying the stated amount of manure and following the N predictor results, be over the requirements stated by DEFRA.

Crop	N max limit (kg N/ha)
Wheat, autumn or early winter sown	220
Wheat spring sown	180
Barley, winter	180
Barley, spring	150
Oilseed rape, winter	250
Sugar beet	120
Potatoes	270
Forage maize	150
Field Beans	0
Peas	0
Grass	330

**NOTICE FROM THE PLANT HEALTH DIVISION  
(DEFRA)**

**NOTICE OF DESIGNATION OF ZONES FOR THE CONTROL OF *DIABROTICA VIRGIFERA* LE CONTE  
(WESTERN CORN ROOTWORM)**

The risk of introduction of *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte (Western corn rootworm) from aircraft landing at the airports named below has been assessed as high.

I, Guy Nettleton, being an inspector authorised by the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs for the purposes of the Plant Health (England) Order 2005 (as amended) ("the Order"), GIVE NOTICE that the Secretary of State will designate, with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, zones around each of the following airports, under article 39A(1) of the Order:

- Heathrow Airport,**
- Gatwick Airport,**
- Stansted Airport**
- Bristol Airport**
- East Midlands Airport**

The designated zones will extend to a radius of 2500 metres around the runways, or around any other areas where aircraft move, of each airport (and any premises which are partly inside and partly outside a designated zone is deemed to be wholly inside that zone). On and after the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, the provisions of articles 39(5) and (6) of the Order shall apply to the above designated zones for the purposes of controlling the spread of *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte. This requires that:

Part 7A (5) Any person acting in the course of a business, trade or other undertaking and growing maize in the designated zone shall ensure that crops are rotated in such a way that maize is only grown once in any field during any period of two consecutive years.

(6) Any premises which are partly inside and partly outside a designated zone shall be deemed to be wholly inside the zone.

Further guidance is available from the Plant Health Division of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Foss house, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX (tel 01904 455178)



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\*Source: NIAB Descriptive List of Forage Maize varieties 2009

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**ARE YOU READY FOR MAIZE 2009?**

Simon has written a very useful article on getting the maize drilling right this year. Lets hope we have a better year for the crop.



**GORDON NEWMAN TRAVEL AWARD 2009**

MGA member Alistair House, has just been awarded a Gordon Newman Travel Award in conjunction with the Nuffield Scholarship Trust Awards. His study is to see what potential the maize crop has in marginal countries and the possible effect of global warming. Alistair farms with his brother in North Somerset, farming approximately 1000 acres, which they have recently converted to growing maize. We will look forward to Alistair presenting a paper at next years conference.



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