

MGA TIMES



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



**Mole Valley
Farmers**

THE MAIZE CONFERENCE—THURSDAY 26th FEBRUARY

The 2015 MGA national conference is to be held at the Peterbrough Showground on Thursday 26th of February. The conference is once again kindly being sponsored by Bayer CropSciences. Subjects to be discussed



In This Issue

- ◆ Conference date & Invitation.
- ◆ EMM meeting report—John Morgan.
- ◆ Feeding maize—Chris Savery.
- ◆ Autumn Cultivations—Simon Draper.
- ◆ Soil cross compliance rules update—John Morgan.
- ◆ Maize Training days invitation.

by leading industry specialists include:

- What kind of maize do I want for my cows/digester.
- Disease and pest threats to the maize crop - Folia disease and Corn Borer.
- Variety guidance for biogas and maize grown under plastic.
- The agronomic benefits of maize and hybrid rye within an arable rotation - Blackgrass control.
- Latest Danish research results focusing on undersowing.
- A review of the MGA trials conducted in 2014.

The conference is open to all maize growers, with MGA members getting a discount on their ticket price. An Invitation is included in this mailing.

MAIZE TRAINING DAYS WINTER 2014/2015

The Maize Growers Association (MGA) is delighted to invite **all** growers to the “Maize Training Days” this December. The aim is to learn the practical lessons from the 2014 growing season, as well as provide an update on the latest UK based maize research. Industry specialists including **Simon Draper** and **John Morgan** from the MGA and **John Williams** from ADAS will be presenting the events which will cover:

Top ten tips of growing a great crop of maize including:

- Fertiliser for maize with a focus on Sulphur & starter fertilizer.
- Disease and pest threats.
- Variety choice for maize grown with and without film.
- Weed control options.
- Seed dressing options.
- Undersowing maize with grass, without a yield penalty.



Over winter management of maize including under/over sowing options and the implications and opportunities presented by the new Basic Payment Scheme, Greening and Cross Compliance.

Results from the DEFRA funded, ADAS managed, Competitive Maize Cultivation with Reduced Environmental Impact trial.

The trial was based on two sites, (Devon and Norfolk) with five replicated treatments, observing soil and nutrient loss and treatments aimed to maintain and enhance biodiversity within the maize crop. Treatments on trial included: maize grown under film, maize strip drilled with grass, maize strip drilled into an established mixed legume sward, non inversion cultivation.

The first meeting is being held at Pilton Village Hall, Pilton, Glastonbury, Somerset on 11th December and the second (**note the change of venue**) is at Grosvenor Farms Ltd, Grange Farm, Churton, Chester on 15th December. Both events start at 10.30 and we need you to book a place by phoning the office 01363 775040, or emailing Jean—info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk as spaces are limited.

In Spring next year there will be 2 more events based on the same subjects, but in other parts of the country. Details of these two events will be sent out after Christmas.



SAMCO-MGA VARIETY TRIALS UNDER FILM

Its that time of year again, no not Christmas but, research results time. Last week saw the yield data come in from the first years maize under film variety trial. The trial carried out over three sites (South Wales, North Wales and South West Scotland) featured 10 varieties in replicated plots drilled using a SAMCO drill. The aim was to see how the breeder and MGA selected varieties performed under the film. Plots were drilled in the last two weeks of April and harvested in mid September (two welsh sites) and mid October (Scottish site).

Varieties put forward for the 2014 trial are:

Ambition, Ambrosini, Award, Exxtens, Glory, Marco, MAS 11F, MAS 17E, P7905 and SY Feeditop.

The yield data and analysis will now be combined to generate the complete picture of how the varieties performed. Watch this (or to be more precise the new variety book to be posted out in December) space for the first glimpse of the MGA Maize under film results.



SAMCO/MGA Trials 2014

SILAGE ANALYSIS PACKS AVAILABLE FROM MGA OFFICE

Having just had probably one of the best years in recent times for growing and harvesting maize, it is still important to know what you are feeding your livestock this winter. Don't forget to order your silage analysis packs from the MGA Office. 01363 775040.



HERBICIDE TRIALS 2014

Early November also saw the MGA herbicide results hit the office desk. The contract for this years herbicide work was won by Derek Mitchell in Cheshire who undertook the pre and post emergence trials. As in the past, the MGA chosen treatment options are complimented by commercial member's choices, the data from which goes to help them build up the evidence base for their products.

Herbicides choices for maize under film

Another MGA first this year was herbicide work for maize grown under plastic film. This work was undertaken by Eurofins who are relatively new to MGA trial work. The results for this trial are also in and along with the uncovered maize herbicide trials conducted by Derek, will be presented to members by Simon Draper and Neil Groom at the MGA conference in February.

MGA MINERALS FOR MAIZE DIETS

Now that we are in the full swing of winter feeding, can I remind you that the MGA have formulated a specialised mineral range for milking cows, dry cows and youngstock. These minerals are formulated to compliment maize based diets.

The mineral range, originally formulated by Gordon Newman and subsequently updated by Chris Savery and the team at Mole Valley Farmers, includes the **MGA SUPERSPEC 200, MGA DRY COW, MGA GRAZING AND MGA YOUNGSTOCK MINERAL.**

Members can rest assured that, as well as receiving competitively priced top quality minerals, a significant element of the purchase price will be directed to the MGA Research Fund. Mole Valley Farmers make the minerals to MGA specifications and we receive a commission on every bag sold.



Minerals are ordered direct from Mole Valley Farmers and designated telephone/ fax numbers have been set up for this purpose only - it is **not** possible to order any other MVF products on the numbers given below.

You can either telephone or fax your order on the following numbers:

Telephone 01278 444829 Fax: 01278 446923

Please remember if you have an order to make, a query about delivery, invoicing or product, then please contact the Mole Valley contacts given above.

If you need advice about mineral feeding, or if you have a formulation query, you can telephone the MGA office on 01363 775040.

MGA PRESS RELEASE HITS THE SPOT



The MGA press release provided a timely reminder to all growers that unmanaged, compacted maize stubbles present a real threat to the water environment if rainfall shed from them leads to flooding or causes soil erosion. The press release was produced before the latest Cross Compliance soil rules were circulated (reviewed by John Morgan in this mailing) and provide a timely reminder than leaving maize stubbles unmanaged over the winter looks like not being an option in the future.