

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

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MGA TRIP TO DENMARK

MGA study tour to Denmark 23rd—25th November 2009. As the follow on from the highly successful MGA study tours, the 2009 MGA tour will visit farms, research facilities and biogas plants in Denmark during November. The choice of venue is the result of trips to Denmark by MGA members and the two MGA conference papers given by Danish Agricultural Scientists, all of which proved very productive. The November timing of the trip also offers the optional choice of a day at the Danish Agromek Livestock show www.agromek.dk, the major agricultural exhibition in Denmark, attracting upwards of 60000 people each year. An itinerary and reply slip for the tour are enclosed and members interested in joining the tour are encouraged to reply ASAP due to the limited number of places available. See you at Standsted.



EUROPEAN MAIZE MEETING 2009

John Morgan and Simon Draper are, as I write once again representing the United Kingdom at the Annual European Maize Committee meeting. This year the two day technical meeting is being held in the Alsace region of eastern France and is being combined with a visit to the Euro Maize event held in the area. The special subject of this years EMMC meeting was the financial growing costs of forage maize across Europe. John reports that the Euro Maize event was excellent, having the challenging double objective of providing up-to-date information for growers, as well as an introduction

to the crop for the general public at large. Both objectives were met, with several very hands on exhibits, as well as hundreds of plots showing every aspect of maize growing, be it for grain or



silage production. John and Simon took lots of photo's (more in future mailings), however the most extreme has to be this high ground clearance sprayer used to combat pests such as Diabrotica. Perhaps it could be useful to help control eyespot!

EMM MEETING 2008

2008 European Maize Committee Summary
 At long last please find enclosed John Morgan's report from the 2008 meeting held in Ireland. He wrote the article on his way home from the Irish meeting, but because the intervening mailings have contained quite a few articles lately it is only now that we have had room for it. As I write this John is probably writing his report on the French trip. We will try to include that one sooner than September 2010!!

NEW ORGANIC MAIZE PRODUCT

A new additive from Micron Bio-Systems Ltd has just been given a Certificate of Evaluation for Compliance by Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd. The product is called Advance Maize.

If you want more information, give Jean a ring at the MGA Office. 01363 775040

SIMON DRAPER IN ANOTHER HOLE!!!

Simon Draper could not stay out of the soil pit at Euro Mais in France last week. The pit, dug at across 5 different cultivations allowed growers and advisors and ideal opportunity to see what each machine had achieved. The key target for cultivation in the area is the burying of post harvest trash, which in the continuous maize situation needs covering, to minimise the risk of disease (fusarium) and pest (diabrotica) carry over to next crops. The use of subsoilers to remove compaction in the area is rare, as the predominantly dry soil conditions means that soil structure is relatively easy to maintain, even with heavy combines harvesting grain late in October.



HOW TALL IS YOUR MAIZE?



The presence of Simon and Andrea Pearson, (New Zealand researcher in Europe to learn what's new with maize) provide scale to this tropical maize. The maize, normally grown in Malawi, Africa has huge yield potential, although even in the dry warm

France grain maize belt is unlikely to reach maturity. Immature cobs were evident 7 ft above ground level!

MAIZE MEETING AT STOKE BARDOLPH

On September 22nd the MGA, in conjunction with Syngenta, CLAAS UK and Keenan are holding a follow up open day at Stoke Bardolph Farm, Stoke Bardolph, Burton Joyce, Nottingham.

John Jackson – Severn Trent Farm Manager and MGA Chairman has planted 51 maize varieties. Delegates will be able to look around the trial plots and discuss with John and Simon Draper all aspects of these varieties.

Simon Draper will also be talking through the post harvest challenges and he will give advice on how to avoid soil compaction and runoff.

KEENAN will be available for nutritional advice and CLAAS UK will be on hand to advise members on harvesting and ensiling techniques.

Last word—We are very grateful this month to Simon Marsh from Harper Adams College for letting us have his report on the College beef unit trials regarding the effect of concentrate feed level on the performance of maize silage fed bulls.

Down in sunny (at last!) Devon, the wheat harvest is just about coming to an end. At Town Barton Farm, the harvest didn't start until 2nd September. We have been looking enviously at the East of the Country, where harvest has been over for weeks, however having just spoken to Ruth Baker, they desperately want some rain. The maize here is ripening, but all the talk this year is maize under plastic, which in some places is already being harvested. Frans De Boer is combining some this week.

There have been quite a few maize meetings around the country and David Christensen had a very successful evening last week. I am hoping he will write us a report on his first venture into maize under plastic and give us the results of his harvest. You will receive this after the Dairy Event at Stoneleigh, but hopefully we will see some of you at Shepton Mallet on Wednesday 7th October. Come along and admire our new carpet!