

MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

December 2019

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CONFERENCE PLANS CONFIRMED—6TH FEB 2019, NOTTINGHAM/DERBY

Venue, date and speakers have been confirmed for the 2020 Maize Conference!

See attached invite or call the office for more details and to book.



**Update on Mesuro! **

We are aware that members are curious about the status of Mesuro! so here is an update, word for word from Health and Safety Executive.

“Approval of the active substance methiocarb was non-renewed by Regulation 2019/1606. Authorisation of products in the UK is withdrawn for sale and distribution on 3 January 2020 and for storage, disposal and use on 3 April 2020.

The Regulation does not make express provision as regards seeds treated with the substance. Seed treated in accordance with an extant authorisation for a methiocarb product may therefore be lawfully placed on the market and used. We would, however, draw your attention to the concerns raised in the European Food Safety Authority’s conclusion on methiocarb. In particular, the Authority found that exposure for workers loading and sowing the treated seed was above the acceptable levels at 628% of the acceptable operator exposure level (AOEL) and 826% of the acute AOEL, even with the use of workwear, gloves and FFP3 respiratory protective equipment. We therefore suggest that UK growers:

- Consider avoiding use of seed treated with methiocarb.
- Where sowing of methiocarb-treated seed is unavoidable, ensure a suitable COSHH assessment is performed to assess the use-specific circumstances.
- Limit the sowing of methiocarb-treated seed to sowing machines with deflector technology achieving at least 90% drift reduction and ensure that vehicles used are fitted with closed cabs with suitable in-cab dust filtration systems meeting at least European standard EN 15695 category 2.
- Ensure that suitable protective clothing, protective gloves, and respiratory protective equipment (Disposable filtering face piece respirator to at least EN149 FFP3 or equivalent) are worn when workers are outside the closed cab.

Where use of methiocarb to treat seed is unavoidable, we suggest ensuring:

- A suitable COSHH assessment is performed to assess the use specific circumstances.
- Particular attention is paid to the correct use of technical controls: closed transfer systems during mixing/loading, automated/closed bagging line, automated/enclosed stacking, adequate dust aspiration system throughout the seed treatment process, enclosed transport of treated seed and ‘dry’ cleaning techniques. Avoid practices that may exacerbate the potential for exposure, such as cleaning using large volumes of water or using compressed air.
- The following personal protective equipment is required to be worn by all personnel throughout the entire working shift, whilst in the operational area of the seed-treatment plant: suitable protective coveralls (protective coverall – impermeable ‘Tyvek’ type of coverall) suitable protective gloves, and suitable respiratory protective equipment (Disposable filtering face piece respirator to at least EN149 FFP3 or equivalent).”

Find enclosed your 2020 MGA

Recommended Maize Variety Booklet!

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

DON'T FORGET!!!

You can be awarded BASIS and NRoSO points for your MGA membership each year. For more information, and for the code to claim your points, contact Sarah in the office.



Mole Valley
FARMERS



Only from **Agrii**.

DID YOU KNOW...?

According to Maya mythology, human beings were created from maize: white corn was used for the bones, yellow corn for the muscles, black corn for the eyes and hair, and red corn for the blood.



A statue of the Maya Maize God. Note the maize cob on his head

Dates for your diary:

Before Christmas - MGA Mailing: Conference Special

6th February - Conference at Hilton East Midlands Airport, M1 Junction, 24 Derby Rd, Derby DE74 2YZ

Harvest review

Now that many have finished harvesting or have been prevented from finishing due to wet weather, we have gathered feedback from some MGA Council Members on their harvest this year.

J & S Whitby (nr Slough) managed to harvest in mid-September so had no mud issues, and had an above-average yield due to a warm summer with rain when needed. John Cottle (Chester) also completed harvest in September but had one of the worst maize yields ever due to suspected nutrient leaching. Both have already opened the clamp and started feeding this year's maize. Stephen Temple (Wells-next-the-sea) managed to harvest in the dry weather but had lower than average yields due to drought (although still better than last year). He also suffered weed problems in two fields as conditions made it impossible to spray when necessary. In future he may spray under bad conditions but accept that damage will be counteracted by improved yields across the rest of the field.

Jon Myhill (Norwich) and Mike Christensen (Shepton Mallet) had slightly different harvest experiences, managing only to make a start before the weather turned, which was a more common theme here in mid-Devon too. Mike started by harvesting fields with a DM of 30% or above and noted that the cobs were fit but the plants still very green. Jon began with maize on light land which was drying rapidly. Both then waited to allow the following

crops on heavier land to catch up, only to be hit with the rain. This meant that the second half of their harvests saw Mike harvesting into rear discharge spreaders in the field to reduce ruts and soil damage due to a wider footprint, and reloading into trailers on the road to prevent mud from leaving on tractor tyres. Finding windows to harvest once October began was tricky across the country. Jon Myhill reported average yields (despite quite a range across soil types) but good quality maize with a good proportion of cobs in the clamp. Mike reported a good yield, again with large cobs. At Shepton Mallet, Mike had replanted all but 50 acres of maize fields with wheat at the time of writing.



Photo from Mike Christensen of loading into a rear-discharge spreader

John Cottle had observed nearby that maize harvested into 2nd and 3rd weeks of October was cut at a higher stubble height so that less wet material was picked up. He suspected that yields were below average and exaggerated by the longer stubble, but that good grass silage stocks this year would help make up for it.

