

MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

August 2020

MGA Agronomist

We are pleased to welcome our new MGA agronomist, Jon Myhill, who will be working alongside Simon Draper as a point of contact for your maize agronomy related queries. Jon, who has been on the MGA council for nearly two years, is an independent agronomist specialising in Maize/Wholcrop and other ensiled forages. Jon's agronomy interests include optimising crop nutrient supply via organic manure, including digestates, and inorganic fertilisers as well as forage crop weed/disease control and maize and wholcrop establishment and harvest. We're looking forward to having Jon on the team, contributing to articles and trials, and hope that you will make best use of him! If you have any agronomy queries, please contact the office in the first instance and we will put you in touch with Jon and Simon.



Harvest Webinar

At the time of writing, we have just held our Maize Harvest Webinar. It was a great success with 45 attendees. MGA agronomist, Simon, spoke about testing dry matter pre-harvest and why harvest dry matter is so important. Jon, introduced above, then expertly guided listeners through chop length, grain processing, and cutting height, then through the clamping and ensiling process. We have had excellent feedback, so plan to run another webinar, free to members, at the end of August/beginning of September.

Subjects will likely be post-harvest field management, and feeding maize. More info to follow. Please email the office to express an interest.

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Adverts

The MGA would like to recognise and thank advertisers in the mailings for their support. The income from the adverts covers our printing and postage costs over the year enabling your membership subs to contribute to events and research and development.

Harvest Maturities

From 17th August we will be collecting your maize dry matter readings again. For the protocol on measuring the dry matter, please see the enclosed article from Jon Myhill. In summary, select a representative plant from your field, chop into small pieces (ideally with a garden shredder), weigh the wet sample, dry in a microwave, oven or air fryer, re-weigh, divide dry weight by fresh weight and multiply by 100. It is recommended that you do this once a week. Please do email us your results each week if you are able.



We suspect this year that you may be struggling for BASIS and NRoSO points so we'd like to remind you that your membership entitles you to 2 CPD points for each. Please email Sarah in the office for the relevant codes.

STOP MAIZE SILAGE WASTING AWAY WITH MAGNIVA INOCULANTS



MAGNIVA Platinum Maize inoculants help reduce aerobic spoilage in clamps meaning more valuable silage is available to feed as Roy Eastlake from Lallemand Animal Nutrition explains.

Typical dry matter losses in maize clamps from aerobic spoilage are around 15%, leading to higher purchased feed bills. As we know a great deal about the causes of waste in maize silage, we know what to do to reduce the impact.

Waste in maize is a consequence of the action of yeasts and moulds found on all crops. When exposed to air the yeasts grow, leading to a loss of the acidic conditions vital for the preservation of silage and so causing waste.

They also burn off energy and feed value, leading to the clamp heating up which can reduce palatability.

Moulds and other opportunistic micro-organisms then become active, adding to the spoilage process and resulting in a second increase in silage temperature.

To reduce waste, we need to reduce the number and activity of yeast and moulds.

Step 1. Reduce the numbers of yeast and moulds present

By reducing the initial populations, we reduce the opportunity they have to multiply. MAGNIVA Platinum Maize inoculants combine two strains of heterofermentative bacteria, *L. buchneri* NCIMB 40788 and *L. hilgardii* CNCM I-4785 which are proven to reduce the problems caused by yeast and moulds.

During the fermentation they quickly produce powerful antifungal compounds which significantly reduce the level of yeasts and moulds, improving both immediate and longer term aerobic stability, protecting the silage while the clamp is open.

Fewer yeasts and moulds mean less risk of waste.

Step 2. Reduce the activity of any remaining yeasts and moulds

To further reduce wastage you need to keep oxygen out both before and after the clamp is opened. This means a combination of good consolidation, covering and sealing the clamp effectively and keeping the face tight and clean at feedout.

Successful strategies to reduce waste begin and end with stopping yeasts and moulds by reducing their numbers and restricting their access to oxygen.

Steps to reduce waste

- Clean all clamps before harvest
- Harvest the crop at 32% DM, crops over 35% dry matter are harder to consolidate.
- Use MAGNIVA Platinum Maize or MAGNIVA Platinum Maize Elite to reduce spoilage organisms and increase aerobic stability
- Consolidate thoroughly to reduce access to oxygen. Inadequate rolling results in increased DM losses and reduced silage quality.
- Seal the clamp securely using a proven oxygen barrier and new plastic sheeting before being fully weighted down, particularly on the shoulders.

MAGNIVA inoculants will help maximise your return on investment in maize.

For more information contact:

Lallemand Animal Nutrition - 01684 580022

MAGNIVA FORAGE INOCULANTS TAKE CONTROL OF SILAGE QUALITY

Combining the newly-patented *L. hilgardii* CNCM I-4785 and the proven *L. buchneri* NCIMB 40788, MAGNIVA PLATINUM forage inoculants set new standards for:

- Complete flexibility of clamp opening
- Improving long term aerobic stability
- Reducing waste and increasing energy fed

Helping you maximise the value of your silage

For more information on the
MAGNIVA range visit:

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For best practice silage
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