



# MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

November 2022

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## MGA CONFERENCE 2023 SAVE THE DATE

We are very pleased to announce the date of our 2023 Maize Growers Association conference as **Wednesday 8th February 2023**.

Our first 'face to face' conference in three years will be held at Reading University with a selection of farmer and research papers followed up by a farm visit.



### Bring a friend!

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible but please remember that the event is open to non-members too. If you know anyone who, you think, would benefit from attending the conference and potentially become an MGA member, please feel free to bring them along. Remember as members you will receive a discount off of your conference tickets. More details to follow shortly but if you have any questions regarding the 2023 conference, please feel free to contact the office



### Conference Speaker Profile—Will Oliver

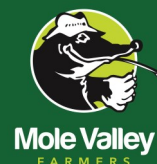
We are delighted that MGA member Will Oliver has agreed to be our farmer speaker at the MGA conference. As many of you will know Will has just been voted Farmer's Weekly Arable Farmer of the Year 2022. A well-deserved title given the work he has done on his farms in Leicestershire to improve soil health and crop yield after returning home from Harper Adams. Will is focused on progressing the family farm and relished the challenge of doing his own agronomy utilising his FACTS and BASIS qualifications. The business and farm, needed to become more resilient to withstand new challenges, such as the rising input costs seen in recent months and also in readiness for the removal of BPS.



Consequently, the farm has diversified and now has a glamping business, industrial storage, a livery yard and fishing lakes. Additionally, the family invested in a 200,000-bird broiler unit, utilising the poultry litter plus digestate and sewage sludge to fertilise, and provide valuable organic matter, to the farm's maize and cereals crops. Will also uses cover crops and minimal cultivations to improve soil, increasing organic matter from 3.2% to 4.8% over four years. Grain maize is a key crop on the 800ha of arable alongside winter wheat, beans and potatoes. We look forward to hearing from Will at the conference.

#### Contents

- ◆ Notification of the 2023 MGA conference with a profile of Will Oliver one of the speakers
- ◆ The 2022 MGA Photo Competition info sheet
- ◆ Commercial opportunities for the 2023 conference
- ◆ A contribution from Mike Wilkinson focusing on silage gas emissions
- ◆ A summary of the key messages presented and collected, at this year's European Maize Meeting in Denmark in September.





## MGA 2022 PHOTO COMPETITION



With this application form, we are delighted to launch the 2022 photo competition for the best cover or undersown crop picture, and story, of a field destined for maize in 2023. Establishing cover crops, be they post or pre harvest, has been a challenge this summer due to the extreme heat and drought conditions. The recent autumn rain was just what was needed. We very much look forward to learning of how crops have developed.



2021 winner, John Ford, drilled his mustard into wheat stubble in September. John's picture was taken in December with the mustard

### Entry Criteria

- A photo of an undersown (at time of drilling or later) or post-harvest cover crop sown in 2022, in a field destined for maize in 2023
- A short description that explains why you have chosen to sow this crop, perhaps due to financial savings in previous years from reduced fertiliser requirements, better travelling of fields, environmental benefits of not leaving your soil bare, or perhaps to improve your soil organic matter
- Please include cultivations, date of maize harvest, date of undersown/cover crop drilling, type of cover crop, seed rate, and plans for the fate of the cover crop

*DEADLINE For Entries: FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023*

*Please email photos and descriptions to [info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk)*

*Or*

*Tag us in your entry on Twitter using [@maizegrowers](https://twitter.com/maizegrowers) and mentioning the 2022 photo competition.*

*(Please note that, by entering the photo, you are giving the MGA permission to use it for publicity purposes)*



# Grainseed Ltd

have kindly offered to donate a prize to the winner

## **MGA Annual Conference Commercial Opportunities 2023**

*We are offering our commercial members an exciting opportunity to be a part of our 2023 Maize Conference. As in the past, we hope to provide a challenging and thought-provoking day for the farmers and members of the associated trade who attend. We believe that the conference provides an excellent opportunity to launch and promote products, as well as to build contacts within the industry. The promotion before and after the event provides an excellent chance to increase profile, both within the membership and the farming public at large.*

*This year's programme includes speakers Will Oliver who has recently won the Farmer's Weekly Arable Farmer of the year 2022. Ben Hunt from Wessex Water speaking on nitrogen release of soil organic matter. We will also be having an overseas speaking who is soon to be confirmed. Plus, full review of the most recent MGA Research and Development program and much more.*

*With those opportunities at the conference in mind, we ask if you may be interested in taking up any of the options below. For prices and more information please contact Kate in the MGA office either via phone or email.*

### **Option 1 – Platinum**

*This is the premium conference opportunity. Company/brand logos are included on all conference invites, mentions, mailings and social media posts, before and after the event. In addition, platinum sponsors are welcome to bring a banner or pull up, to place on or close to the stage on the day of the event. All sponsors will be acknowledged by the conference chairman on the day. We would also offer anyone who chooses our platinum option a stand at the conference and two complementary tickets. We will limit the platinum sponsors to two companies.*

### **Option 2 – Gold**

*An opportunity that is geared towards the conference papers. Each year the conference speaker presentations and associated papers are compiled and externally printed and bound in a booklet for attendees. Our gold option offers companies company/brand logos on the cover of the conference papers, as well as an advertisement opportunity within the papers. We will be limiting the number of companies able to take this package to two. Companies who chose our gold package would be entitled to one complementary ticket to the event to include lunch and other refreshments.*

### **Option 3 – Silver**

*Our silver opportunity is focused on those who would like a stand at the conference. The conference hall allows us to have small (trestle-table size) stands around which the delegates tend to congregate during the coffee and lunch breaks. The stand space presents an ideal opportunity to launch a new product, build brand awareness or simply network with interested farmers and trade representatives. In addition to an allocated stand space, the silver option package allocates two conference places, which includes lunch and other refreshments. Space is limited so will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.*

### **Option 4 – Bronze**

*The final option for commercial opportunity is for the conference dinner. The night before the conference, speakers, commercial associates, MGA council members and MGA members are invited to dine together near the venue. We would ask that this company pays for the wine for the tables. Whoever opted for option 4 would be thanked at the meal, mentioned in relevant publications prior to and after the event, and would have the opportunity to place a flyer on each of the dining tables at the meal. Only one company is required for this option so will be the first party to express an interest.*