



# MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

September

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**The 2022, European Maize Meeting**, held in real life for the first time in three years was based in Southern Jutland, Denmark, during the first week of this month. Six delegations offered papers on the Status of the Maize Crop in their respective countries as well as taking a deeper look into this year's chosen subject - Technologies to improve the nutrient utilization and maize production with special focus on phosphorus and nitrogen. Key themes from the Status papers included:

- Maize crops had a good start but were then, especially in light soils, hit by the summer drought
- Earlier drilled crops have generally fared better than those sown later.
- Yields are predicted to be 20-40% down on the average
- Flowering and therefore harvest is predicted to be 2-3 weeks earlier than typically would be the case.
- Grain maize crops have been taken as silage to fill the forage gaps
- Areas of maize are predicted to increase next year due to depletion of stocks.

Ongoing agronomic challenges identified included:

- Bird and wireworm losses
- Development of herbicide resistance in some weeds
- Spring leaching of nitrogen
- Increased disease threats associated with a warmer climate.

In addition to the formal presentations' attendees were guided around a couple of farms and 4 maize trial sites. Lots to see and lots to learn. I propose to write a more complete review of the meeting and in particular the key points raised from the chosen subject papers for future mailings so please watch this space. In the meantime, I would like to thank Ben Hunt of the Wessex Water who presented on behalf of the MGA about the potential of measuring and using Additional Available Nitrogen (AAN).



*Members of the European Maize Committee on farm in Southern Jutland, Sept 2022*



*Above Ben Hunt from Wessex Water presenting his MGA paper EMM 22*

## Contents

MGA Times

Jon Myhill article on European Corn Borer

Mike Wilkinson article on Silage Analysis & Feed Out



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LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION

Advertorial



## AVOID COSTLY MAIZE LOSSES THIS AUTUMN BY CAREFUL MANAGEMENT

**When it comes to maize silage, it's not uncommon to see 15% losses from field to feeding and with high purchased feed costs, these losses will prove even more costly. Maintaining quality in the feed clamp should therefore be a priority.**

Lientje Colahan, technical sales support at Lallemand Animal Nutrition, highlights that maize can be a particularly challenging silage crop as it's susceptible to the growth of mycotoxin producing moulds and spoilage yeasts, meaning producers must pay particular attention from harvest to feeding.

*"As a starting point, the crop needs to be harvested at the right time – wait for the lower leaves to start drying off and for the milk line to be one third up the kernel before cutting it," she advises.*

*"When cutting maize, it should be at least 10-20cm high or above the second node of the plant. This is because nitrogen accumulates in the bottom third of the plant and if cut too low there is an increased risk of ensiling problems and potential creation of toxic silo gases.*

*"Cutting the plant higher will also reduce the risk of soil contamination which will help to reduce the likelihood of ensiling issues and the presence of spoilage microbes," she adds.*

Mrs Colahan advises that maize can spoil rapidly when the face is open if it is not ensiled correctly.

*"Using a maize specific inoculant such as Magniva Platinum Maize can help preserve silage quality through until feed out. Maize can be more difficult to compact than grass silage, meaning there's more potential for residual oxygen in the clamp. When the clamp is opened, oxygen will penetrate faster, reactivating the yeasts, leading to aerobic spoilage and waste," she advises.*

*"The inoculant's unique combination of heterofermentative bacteria *L. buchneri* NCIMB 40788 & *L. hilgardii* CNCM I-4785, means the crop is more likely to be aerobically stable, enabling the clamp to be opened earlier and there's less chance of heating, increasing the feed value and reducing waste," adds Mrs Colahan.*

**Scan to see MAGNIVA's effect in this short video**



MAGNIVA TREATED SILAGE

UNTREATED SILAGE

*"When sheeting the clamp, pack the crop as tightly as possible and cover it with an oxygen barrier clingfilm, as this will follow the contours on the top of the clamp, reducing the air pockets formed on the top layer. It should then be covered with a black sheet, followed by bird proof green netting, additional weight should also be placed on top on the clamp."*

To avoid spoilage at feed out, Mrs Colahan recommends only opening the clamp enough to allow a minimum of one pass across the face per week.

**Scan for more information on the MAGNIVA range**



**MAGNIVA**  
FORAGE INOCULANTS



### TAKE CONTROL OF MAIZE SILAGE QUALITY

MAGNIVA crop and condition specific inoculants are formulated for the multiple challenges of Maize silage.

MAGNIVA PLATINUM MAIZE inoculants contain a unique combination of proven bacteria and enzymes providing complete flexibility on clamp opening times, in addition to:

UP TO  
**99%**  
LESS YEASTS  
& MOULDS



UP TO  
**250**  
MJ/T  
MORE ENERGY



UP TO  
**15%**  
MORE  
DM





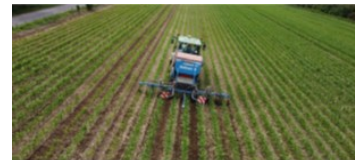
**Undersowing**, this time with crops other than grass, continues to be popular in Denmark. While out in the trials fields Euro Maize Meeting delegates saw very impressive plots focusing on Chicory, a crop which has proved successful over many years. It is a shame the seed is so expensive!



Maize undersown with Chicory, Denmark 9th September

### Undersown Maize Workshop

Thursday 6th October  
9:30am (10:00am start)–  
13:00pm Whitewool Farm,  
Petersfield, GU32 1HW  
What3words: ///  
exist.catchers.crumbles



Catchment Sensitive Farming, in partnership with Portsmouth Water, are hosting a workshop which will explore the benefits of undersowing maize.

Speakers include John Morgan from MGA and Stephen Woodley. After the presentations we will visit the trial field.

To book a place, please visit the event Eventbrite page

### Carbon Challenge Farm Visit to M/S Temple,

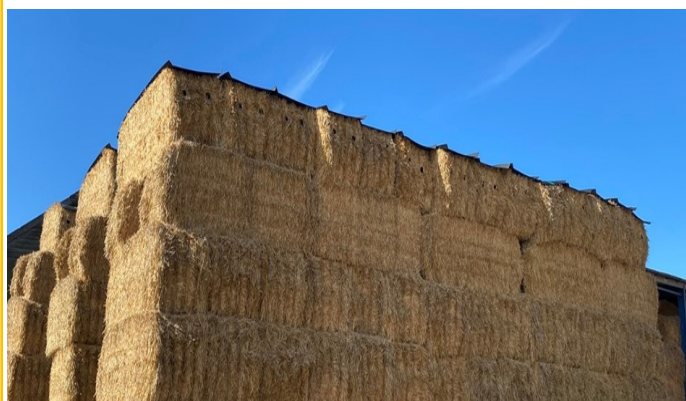
The afternoon of Wednesday 1st of September saw MGA Carbon Challenge farmers joined members of the MGA Council on a tour of Stephen Temples North Norfolk farm to review and discuss his attempts to boost soil carbon and health. Having looked over the gate at Stephen's beautiful Brown Swiss cows and farm scale AD plant the group focused discussion around strip tillage. Purchased from France, Stephens adapted Duro strip cultivator includes a subsoiling tine followed by a strip rotavator on to which his maize drill is attached. The visit to Stephen follows up his excellent presentation to the MGA conference in 2021, the full paper of which is available via the MGA office. Thank you, Stephen, for your time and showing us around.



Carbon Challenge Farmers and MGA council members 'Look over the gate' at Stephens Brown Swiss Cows.

The adapted Duro strip cultivator and rotovator on to which the maize drill is attached.

**Straw sheets** -While nothing to do with maize the purpose designed sheets to protect outdoor straw stacks caught my eye while walking around Stephen Temples farm. The plastic sheets, the same size as a bale, tied to the bale using fastenings screwed into the bale sides looked great and according to Stephen worked really well.



**South West Trial Site** Friday 14th September was the day of harvest for the MGA's Southwest Trial site nr Shepton Mallett in Somerset. Individual trials looking at Nitrogen fertiliser (amount and type), undersowing, mechanical weed control and starter fertiliser were once again cut by the excellent team from NIAB as part of their 'National Tour' of sites. While harvest on the day took a little longer than last year, as the team dodged the rain showers, the crop was cut a full two weeks earlier, a result of the crop maturing quickly during the very dry weather.







# Waste?

# WHAT WASTE?



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