



MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

February 2024

Maize Growers Association
Office 2, Unit 50 Commonmarsh
Lane,
Crediton
EX17 1DJ
01363 775040
@maizegrowers
info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk
www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk



MGA CONFERENCE 2024



We are just 2 weeks away from this years MGA conference. This year we have made some changes to how we do things, as the conference will be set over two days. We have already sold out our first day with the farm visits proving really popular. However we still have some tickets left for the second conference day. These are limited and selling fast, so if you do want to join us please book your tickets now.



CONFERENCE SPEAKER PROFILES



Roman Gambirasio

They say already at the age of 4, I decided that I wanted to become a farmer like my grandfather. I put this into practice by completing an apprenticeship as a farmer and then studying agronomy. After graduating at the age of 24, I left Switzerland for Germany to work in sales engineering at Fendt in Marktobendorf. During these two and a half years, I was able to familiarise myself with the advanced technology in the high-horsepower tractor range. My experiences in North America, South Africa and East Germany broadened my horizons in relation to small-scale Swiss agriculture.

Nevertheless, in 2021 I decided to move back to Switzerland to join GVS Agrar, which is the importer of Fendt, MF and Valtra. In my current role as Technical Manager at the Swiss Future Farm, I have a very varied job, which also includes practical machine use in the field. In my simultaneous role as a specialist for new technologies, I can benefit a lot from my experience in the agricultural machinery sector when training and advising our dealers and customers.

It is important to me that we in the agricultural machinery industry can deliver true solutions to our customers' challenges. Our mission in the Swiss Future Farm project together with AGCO and the local agricultural training centre is to test the application of the many new technologies in practice and to be able to advise end customers on them.



Beth Metson

As well as Head of Farming Advice at the Soil Association Exchange, Beth farms with her husband in Essex growing cereals in a system where herbal leys and livestock are integral to the rotation.

Having grown up with a strong connection to farming and nature Beth had a plan to work in a role that marries these two passions together. She landed her first step into the industry straight after graduating for an organisation called Momenta, which was responsible for delivering much of the roll out of NVZ regulations in England. This was a great opportunity to see how valuable bespoke advice was to achieving outcomes around a new and challenging topic.

Beth's next step was in the private sector as a Catchment Adviser helping farmers come together to tackle agricultural water pollution, a rewarding project dealing with a real problem with real data. It was from there Beth had the opportunity to understand the commercial value of advice and to explore other impacts of farming as well as water quality. Beth joined Agrii and became an essential part of the environmental offer that accompanied agronomy advice. It was at this time in her career she saw the variety of approaches to farming, appreciated the importance of understanding different motivations and challenges farmers have. She had exposure to the diverse levels of knowledge and capabilities in the industry.

Beth was at Agrii for 12 years before joining the SA Exchange in May 2023. A big part of her role at Exchange is to make sure there is value for a farming business collecting data, using the Exchange platform and engaging with her team of farm advisers. Her aim in the role is ensure the service is helping farmers build resilience, future proof and improve self sufficiency.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Tuesday 27th FEBRUARY

AT

SEVERN

TRENT

Green Power

Halloughton Wood Farm, Southwell, Nottingham, NG25 0QR

&

Severn Trent Green Power Ltd, Stoke Bardolph Crop AD facility , Stoke Lane,

Stoke Badolph, Nottingham, NG14 5HL

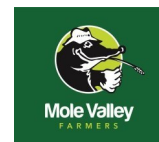
A big thank you to Severn Trent for providing the lunch for this event and for hosting us at their facility. Also a big thank you to Simon Elliot for hosting us at his farm.

Time	
10:45 am	Meet at Simon Elliot's farm Halloughton Wood Farm
11 am	Introduction by Simon and start of tour
12:30pm	Tour of Halloughton Wood Farm to finish
12:30pm - 12:50 pm	Travel time to Severn Trent's facility
1pm	Buffet Lunch and introduction to Severn Trent by John Jackson - at Stoke Bardolph facility
1:30pm	Tour of Severn Trent's AD Plant (Tractor and trailer to transport guests to the AD Plant)
3pm	Tour to finish
3:15pm	Day end



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024




WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY



AT

EASTWOOD HALL, Lawrence Suite, Mansfield Road, Eastwood, Nottingham,
NG16 3SS

You are invited to our 2024 annual Maize Conference. It is being held Wednesday on 28th February 2024, from 8.45 am — 4:00 pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We have an enthusiastic and knowledgeable panel of speakers. Many thanks to SAMCO, VADERSTAD and SILOSTOP for supporting the event.

  	
Time	Speaker and Subject
8.45 a.m.	Registration & coffee
9:45 a.m.	Welcome - John Jackson, MGA Chairman
9.50 a.m.	Main sponsors and Mole Valley message
10.10 a.m.	Beth Metson - Soil Association Exchange - encouraging positive changes to farm businesses that offer continuous environmental improvement and deliver profitability into the future.
10:30 a.m.	Neil Groom and Jon Myhill – MGA Trials to include seed dressing story
11:00 a.m.	Coffee break
11:20 a.m.	Martin Williams – River Wye Catchment – Nutrient Management
11:50 a.m.	Louise Penn – SFI opportunities and other “wins” for farmers
12:20 p.m.	Lunch
1.20 p.m.	Michael Jarmuz – Future Biogas story- AD plants without Government support
1.50 p.m.	Roman Gambirasio – The Swiss Future Farm, maize trials and why Switzerland isn't a maize country any more
2.20 p.m.	Coffee break
2:35 p.m.	John Jackson and Jon Myhill -1 st year of under sowing and technical guidance
3.05 p.m.	Becca & Lizzie - Being influencers in today's climate and using the power of social media in the industry to teach and interact with the general public
3:30 p.m.	Networking and trade stand viewing

Please book via the Eventbrite link below:

<https://bit.ly/3G5apVA>

or search Maize Growers Association Conference on Eventbrite If you have any questions, please contact us via: www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk



info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk

01363 775040

Use this QR code to book tickets now

Introducing Our Speakers



John Jackson - John Jackson is Farm Manager at Severn Trent Green Power and MGA council chairman. He manages over 2000 hectares of maize and wholecrop which is used in their anaerobic digestion plant near Nottingham. John has worked at the farm for 35 years and has under-sown his maize with a Westerwold Ryegrass mix for the first time this year. John has had great success maximising maize yields since he started growing the crop at Stoke Bardolph in the 1980s for the former dairy unit and more recently for the anaerobic digester.



Beth Metson - Beth is Head of Agricultural Advice at Soil Association Exchange. Beth has worked in agricultural advice particularly farm environment and sustainability for 15 years. Her focus has been to take a partnership approach when working with the industry to achieve outcomes that compliment both the objectives of the farm business but also the environment that surrounds it. Her objective is to offer advice that matters. My particular focus and interests are stacking benefits on land, resource protection and resource use efficiency & creating markets for ecosystem services.



Neil Groom - MGA Council Member and Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd, Neil Groom will review aspects of the MGA research programme. Neil's experience and knowledge gained from his time heading up the maize work at NIAB and subsequently for Grainseed Ltd is considerable and practical.



Jon Myhill - Jon is the MGA agronomist, technical lead and was the project lead for the non-grass undersowing trials run in 2021, 2022 & 2023. Jon is going to explore the results of these trials, as well as provide guidance as to his thoughts on the agronomy the 2024 maize crops.



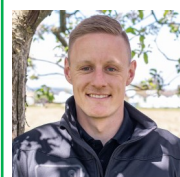
Martin Williams - Martin is a farmer and contractor in Herefordshire. He is also an ex AHDB monitor farmer. He is the co chairman of www.farmherefordshire.co.uk which is trying to help with soil and water quality in agriculture. Martin is also member of the Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board.



Louise Penn - Louise is a BASIS, FACTS, Soil and Water and Conservation Management qualified agronomist with a portfolio of clients in the Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire area. She is particularly interested in regenerative agriculture and soil health, and believes we have a big opportunity to be more sustainable in our farming practices and still maintain high levels of profitability and productivity.



Michael Jarmuz - Michael is feedstock development lead at Future Biogas Ltd. He is currently focusing on the development of new crop-fed AD plants across the UK. Drawing on his knowledge as an experienced agricultural manager having previously been responsible for the procurement (inc. growing) of feedstocks across multiple AD plants in Yorkshire. A strong technical knowledge including BASIS & FACTS qualifications due to my background in agronomy coupled with a wealth of practical experience having worked for various small and large scale farming enterprises.



Roman Gambirasio - Roman is working as an agronomist and product specialist for GVS Agrar, the largest machinery importer in Switzerland. As GVS Agrar, they are also project partner of the Swiss Future Farm. The Swiss Future Farm (SFF) is a project of the Arenenberg Education and Consulting Centre (BBZ), GVS Agrar AG and AGCO Corporation. The project partners use the common synergies to take up the opportunities created by digital change for agriculture and to create practical solutions for farmers. At the SFF test facility in Tänikon, state-of-the-art machines and software are used under real conditions. Farmers, experts and visitors are given an insight into the collection of data, which is continuously evaluated and integrated into the development of new technologies and farming methods



Becca & Lizzie - Becca & Lizzie is a podcast and video series which aims to bridge the gap between farmers and non-farmers, showing how people from different backgrounds can find a foothold in this diverse and exciting industry. Presented by Lizzie McLaughlin Self-confessed townie and Head of Commerical Content at Agriconnect and 5th generation farmer Becca Wilson. They have over 60k followers on Instagram.

Introducing Our Sponsors

The MGA would like to thank Silostop Agri, Vaderstad, Samco system for kindly sponsoring this conference. It is with their help that super events like this continue to be held.





Conference Trade Stands 2024



LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION
SPECIFIC FOR YOUR SUCCESS



- Grainseed
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- Yara
- Samco System
- Silostop Agri
- Vaderstad
- British Grassland Society
- Corteva & Pioneer
- Limagrain UK
- Syngenta
- Lallemand
- Mole Valley
- Nutricor
- Frontier
- Yagro Ltd
- Abrey Agricultural Ltd



Knowledge grows



All of the above companies will be having trade stands at our 2024 MGA conference. There will be dedicated time to view all the trade stands and speak to the companies about their products and services during the conference on the 28th.