



# MGA TIMES

Maize Growers Association

January 2024

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



We are delighted for former MGA Chairman Hugh McClymont on being presented with the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers' Princess Royal Award.

The award is one of the highest accolades within the dairy industry. It is awarded each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the sector throughout their lifetime. Congratulations Hugh!

## MGA CONFERENCE 2024



We are getting very excited here in the MGA office, we are only a month away from our annual conference. This year we have made some changes to how we do things, as the conference will be set over two days. The first day on Tuesday 27th February will be our visits, this year our very own MGA chairman John Jackson will be giving us a tour with some of his team of Severn Trent's AD Plant. This will be our first stop which will include some refreshments and a brief talk before going on the tour itself. Next up will be a visit to a local dairy farm to see how they do things. Simon Elliott has very kindly agreed to host us and give us a tour around his farm. A big thank you to Simon, John and the team at Severn Trent for accommodating us.



We will then be on to our second day, which is our main conference day. This year we are at Eastwood Hall in Nottingham. We are so pleased to have a host of excellent speakers, 15 trade stands, trial results, excellent venue with refreshments throughout the day, with lunch included in your ticket price.



Remember you can purchase a one or two day ticket. So if you can't make the first day, you can still join us on the main conference day. Members get discounted ticket prices but non members are also more than welcome! Remember, if someone signs up as a member before the conference then they will also get the discounted ticket prices.

There are only a limited amount of tickets available, so if you do want to join us this year at what is set to be an excellent conference, please use the link below to book your tickets. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kate or Jon in the office.

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



Please scan this QR code on your phone and it will take you straight to our Eventbrite page

Please put the above link into your web browser



**Becca and Lizzie**



Rebecca Wilson is a fifth generation farmer, working on the family farm in North Yorkshire. Having studied for a BA in Human, Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge and an MSc in Rural Estate Management, Becca pursued a role as a rural surveyor in Oxfordshire. She returned back to Yorkshire to work as a project manager in a poultry equipment supplier where she met Lizzie and their podcast was created.

Now, working full time on the farm, Becca shows her daily life on Instagram, having built a following of over 38k. Her social media regularly talks about the highs and lows of sheep farming and combining the flock with the arable enterprise. Recent times have seen the creation of 'Becca Farms', a YouTube channel aimed at further showing the realities of farming life on another platform.

A past NFU Student and Young Farmer Ambassador and involved in the AHDB Livestream Circle which brings together farmers from across a variety of media platforms, Becca believes authenticity and a real story is key to engaging with the public and helping them learn about how food is produced. Information isn't always easily available, or it can be strewn with myths and stereotypes. We have the power to tell our own story.

In comparison to Becca, Lizzie McLaughlin was born in the town of Middlesbrough, never believing she could have a career in agriculture.

Following her creative passions, she studied her BA in English Language and Linguistics with Media and MA in Design at the University of Sunderland. After her studies, she fell into a marketing role at a poultry equipment supply company.

Now, Lizzie works as Head of Commercial Content at Agriconnect and combines her love for farming and creativity. Her Instagram sees around 11k followers with the duos joint account accumulating the same and she actively shows the life of working in the farming community without actively being on farm.

Lizzie's work for women in agriculture has seen her sit on the Women in Ag Scotland Committee, break into the country fashion sector with Femme Country and she has actively shared her own mental health journey to encourage others to reach out.

The pairs podcasts aim to bring their two different perspectives together to break misconceptions about farming. They have delved into important and challenging topics, such as careers, animal welfare and meat health and have welcomed notable guests on their platforms- such as Love Island's Farmer Will, Red Shepherdess, Hannah Jackson and covered a variety of topics from women in agriculture, livestock auction marts to sustainable farming.

The pair have been recognised for their success, reaching #25 in Apple's Top 200 for Personal Journals, featuring on mainstream news channels (BBC Breakfast, Radio 5 Live and The Daily Telegraph), accumulating a joint following of over 60,000 and reaching over 3 million combined video views.

In their recent projects, they have supported important campaign such as the Yellow Wellies, #MindYourHead week and worked with NFU Education to help educate school children on farming.

**Martin Williams**



I was born into agriculture in 1965, in Herefordshire.

Growing up, hand bottling milk on a 300-acre dairy/ mixed farm which gradually changed to Beef/ sheep and arable. In 2010 I took the decision to cease the cattle, then concentrating on cereals, grassland and a contracting business run from the same farm.

I took on the role of AHDB monitor Farmer in 2017 in partnership with a friend and this gave an insight into forthcoming changes within agriculture, it also gave me a wider perspective on UK agriculture and some of the issues on the horizon.

Since 2021 I have championed farming and led on water quality issues in the Wye Valley, where phosphate has been the cause of much headline debate. I took the decision that agriculture needed a voice in the room and this has led to work with all parties, from National Agencies, Governments, Farmers and activists. I have endeavored to bring a rational and practical approach to the discussion, whilst allowing for open debate. I am co-Chairman of Farm Herefordshire, an organisation set up to bring all farm advice together alongside agencies, Councils and Farming representatives. It has become the lead in delivering advice and guidance in the County.

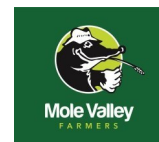
Change is somewhat inevitable, it is how we approach it that is important.

I have no children and, after the death of a close friend took the decision to try to put something back into farming which has given me the opportunity to get involved outside my farm gate.

Do I grow maize? Yes, I do.

# 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 <sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.maizegrowersassociation.co.uk)



Use this QR code to book tickets now

[info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@maizegrowersassociation.co.uk)

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## 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.



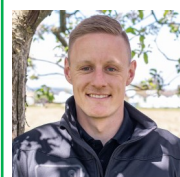
**Martin Williams** - Martin is a farmer and contractor in Herefordshire. He is also an ex AHDB monitor farmer. He is the co chairman of [www.farmherefordshire.co.uk](http://www.farmherefordshire.co.uk) which is trying to help with soil and water quality in agriculture. Martin is also member of the Wye 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**



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Lallemand  
Mole Valley  
Nutricor  
Frontier  
Yagro Ltd**



Knowledge grows



*Bringing plant potential to life*

***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.***