



MAIZE GROWERS ASSOCIATION



CONFERENCE PAPERS

DAY TWO

8TH MARCH 2022

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Day Two Itinerary

Time	Speaker	Background
10.00	John Jackson	MGA Chairman, Welcome
10.05	Iain Ford	Event Sponsor, Introducing us to BASF
10.10	John Williams	John is Head of Soils and Nutrients at ADAS and his research interests include the utilisation of organic materials, nutrient management and diffuse pollution mitigation. He provides strategic policy advice to government, levy bodies and water companies on soil and nutrient management. John will be exploring the EA's interpretation of the Farming Rules for Water, along with ADAS' impact statement on this topic. The aim is to clarify some of the expectations from farmers going forward.
10.40	Neil Groom	Neil is MGA treasurer and trials committee member, with many years experience in the trials industry. Neil coordinated the drilling depth and drill date trial, cover crop destruction trial, and fungicide trial. He will be taking us through the theory behind each trial, the 2021 results, and how that compares to previous years.
11.10	Dr Sajjad Awan	Sajjad has recently become head of agronomy with CF Fertilisers, and was formerly AHDB's crop nutrition research and knowledge transfer manager. Sajjad is involved in a range of research projects focused on using fertilisers more efficiently, sustainably and economically. He will be talking about Soil Nitrogen testing and how this can be used to improve Nitrogen Use Efficiency. This will include the potential environmental and financial benefits of growing maize with better knowledge of nitrogen levels in the soil.
11.40	Break	
11.55	Andrew Gamble	Event Sponsor, Introducing us to Vaderstad
12.00	Jon Myhill	Jon is the MGA agronomist and was the project lead for the non-grass undersowing trial run in 2021. Jon is going to explore the results of this trial, along with the herbicide trials, mechanical weed control trials, biostimulant and placement fertiliser trials, and nitrogen curve and inhibitors.
12.25	Prof Andy Neal	Andy is a soil microbiologist at Rothamsted Research, based at North Wyke in Devon. He is working with colleagues to develop a radically different way of thinking about soil, combining modern techniques such as shotgun metagenomics and X-ray computed tomography to understand the central role that organic matter plays in soil systems. Andy is a regular public speaker and his work has been featured on BBC Radio 4's Inside Science, at New Scientist Live events and podcasts (Agrii Tramlines Podcast, CropTec Podcast) as well as speaking at the Parliamentary ERFA committee and featuring in UKRI BBSRC's video feature - What happens when you switch farmland from livestock to crops? His talk will demonstrate how soil structure and metabolic activity is closely coupled to organic matter inputs and the benefits for soil health. This will in turn affect the growing crop.
12.55	John Jackson	MGA Chairman, Thank you

Contact the office for more information, or if you have any questions for our speakers. If you would like to see the recording from 22nd Feb Session, please get in touch.

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