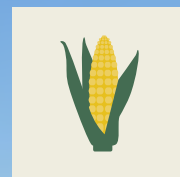


myKWS MAIZE

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 11 | SPRING 2022



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The Maize Seed Service offers growers a 50% discount towards the cost of re-sowing in the event of crop failure

4 Focus on Calvini

Discover why KWS Calvini is one of our best-performing and most consistent varieties

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One farm has a positive experience with narrow row widths

SEEDING
THE FUTURE
SINCE 1856

KWS



Welcome...

...to issue 11 of the myKWS quarterly newsletter, where you will find relevant and timely information to help you get the best out of your maize crop.

In this issue we outline a Welsh farmer's success with KWS Calvini, one of our flagship maize varieties, as well as the excellent results he has achieved by adjusting row widths. He is so impressed with the technique that he has bought a drill specifically for the purpose.

We have tips on sowing and planting maize, with a reminder to growers to make use of our Maize Seed Service, financial support towards the cost of re-sowing any KWS Maize Seed treated with Initio Bird Protect suffering damage from bird predation or frost.

Lastly, we cannot print this latest issue without mention of the alarming rise in fuel and fertiliser prices. It has put extra pressure on farmers and we can only hope for a favourable growing season ahead.

Seasonal Review and Sowing Tips

JOHN MORGAN, KWS



John Morgan

Maize growers have understandably been preoccupied with rocketing prices for fuel and fertiliser prices and I expect farmyard manure and slurry to play an even more important role

in crop nutrition across the board for 2022.

Foliar nutrient sprays have also come into sharper focus; partly because of the increase in DAP product prices, but also due to a shortfall in the DAP supply chain.

Spring got off to a warm start, but the high temperatures were swiftly followed by a cold spell, so growers in many regions will have had to put the call to the maize drilling contractor on hold.

If you have not already done so, please try out our free, online KWS Soil Temperature Tool (see opposite page). It provides temperature data for your local area and can really help when it comes to sowing decisions.

Every year, we issue a reminder that it is better to wait until soils warm up before sowing and that can mean exercising patience. If your planting date is significantly delayed, we have a range of 'short-season' varieties. They require only 130-140 days to reach maturity, compared with 160 days for a standard variety. This allows for a degree of catch-up, with little or no yield penalty.



? DID YOU KNOW?

PLANTING DEPTH

Planting depth can be manipulated, according to drilling date.

Drilling Depth Recommendations:

Early-Mid-season (April to early May)	3-5cms
Mid-season (early May onward)	5-7cms
Late (mid-May onward)	7-9cms max

Post-emergence herbicide advice

ANDREW COOKE KWS



Andrew Cook

Decisions on maize herbicide programmes will have been influenced by input price rises, but it is vital that young maize plants do not suffer competition, especially in the first six weeks.

Pre-em chemicals rely on water to activate the herbicide molecules and in a dry spell the crop may need a post-em spray. A post-em is contact in action, so there is no requirement for rainfall for activation. Another factor is that late drilling usually speeds up establishment, with plants developing from 3-5 leaves in just 10-14 days. This can limit the herbicide spray window.

A post-em herbicide must be applied before the third leaf stage. During the period from coleoptile emergence to 3 leaves, the maize leaf is protected by a cuticle wax layer. Any later and it will be vulnerable to scorching; this is caused by active ingredients which drift from within the rows. In an ideal world, maize would receive a pre-em and a post-em herbicide.

With rising costs it's imperative that you assess conditions and weed burden, to ensure the appropriate plan is in place. With crops having a high value in 2022 its essential that yield potential is optimised with a robust weed control strategy.



Soil Temperature Tool

Have you tried our online KWS Soil Temperature Tool yet?

What? A free online tool giving you the soil temperature at 10cms depth for your farm

Why? Helps with planting date decisions

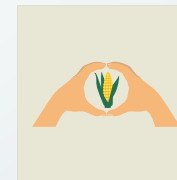
How? Simply enter your full UK postcode

Where? Find it at www.kws-uk.com (select Maize, then scroll down to Top Tools)

Top Tip

Maize should not be drilled before soils have reached an even temperature for 3-4 days (8°C for light soils, 12°C for heavy soils).

Maize Seed Service



The aim of the maize seed service is to highlight the company's confidence in the Initio Bird Protect (IBP) seed treatment and to share establishment risks with growers.

The treatment has been used across the majority of KWS maize seed varieties.

The maize seed service offers growers a 50% discount towards the cost of re-sowing any KWS Initio Bird Protect-treated seed that suffers damage from bird predation or frost in the coming season.

Untreated maize seed is highly vulnerable from bird damage, which can cause total crop loss.

IBP has been found to be highly effective as a bird repellent.

IBP also contains nutrients which help to get the seed off to a great start and encourage healthy root formation. It benefits from a mixture of zinc, manganese and humic acids. Another ingredient is a phosphate mobiliser, which makes the nutrient available once the soil reaches a temperature of 3 degrees Centigrade.

Register your field no later than 14 days post-sowing and upload proof of purchase (delivery note)

- **Share risk of crop damage losses caused by frost or bird damage**
- **Receive a 50% discount of seed purchase costs for re-sowing**
- **Re-sow your maize crop to ensure yield and avoid crop losses.**

For full terms and conditions and a video on how to register your field: kws.com/gb/en/mykws



Focus on... KWS CALVINI FAO170



Scan the QR code to watch a video review of KWS Calvin

“

KWS CALVINI is one of our best-performing and most consistent varieties. It topped the NIAB trials for dry matter yield in its class and the results have been replicated on farm, with an 18.2t/ha DM yield projection for the coming season, along with 35% starch.

John Morgan KWS



KWS CALVINI

Agronomist Opinion



Ian Evans

Ian Evans reports that KWS Calvin is a consistent on-farm performer, which is why he recommended the variety for Calcourt Farms. The early-maturing variety has been grown for the Jones family's dairy cows since it was launched five years ago.

“KWS Calvin has the same requirements as all maize; it will thrive if sown into a fine seedbed with warm soil and protected against early weed competition,” states Mr Evans, who covers West Shropshire and Montgomeryshire for BCW

Agriculture, a division of Frontier Agriculture.

“Given the right growing conditions and agronomy advice, KWS Calvin is a reliable variety to grow. It is a real clamp-filler which also has excellent quality potential; that makes a great combination.”

Mr Evans reports that his clients will be focusing on making the most of their FYM/slurry or digestate this season, to try and offset the worrying rise in input costs, especially fertiliser.

“Maize silage is an excellent product, whether it is grown to feed dairy cows or to convert into renewable energy. Nevertheless, maize is a ‘hungry’ crop that requires a high level of nutrition, in order to maximise performance.

“One of its most important requirements is potash, which is used in the cell division process to promote standing power and grain-fill. We have also seen a return on investment through the use of Nutrino Pro, which is a slow-release foliar fertiliser that can be applied to maize from the 8-leaf stage onwards. It is a low-scorch nitrogen formulation which also contains magnesium, sulphur and biostimulants and it has been giving a yield boost of 5-10%.”

**KWS CALVINI —
DRIVE YOUR RATION REFORMANCE!**

First choice variety for favourable sites – NIAB Forage Maize Descriptive List 2022

- **Superb early vigour**
- **ME 11.74 MJ/Kg**
- **Full cob sheath coverage**
- **High kernel content and ripening stability**



One farm has a positive experience with **narrow row widths KWS Calvin**

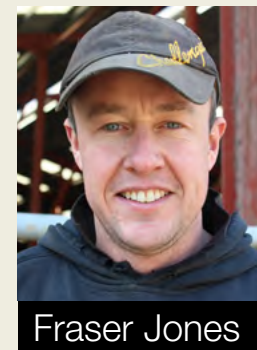
FRASER JONES, CALCOURT FARMS, MONTGOMERYSHIRE

- **1,400 pedigree Holsteins averaging 11,000kgs at 4.2 per cent fat and 3.4 per cent protein**
- **Fully housed (cubicles), calving all-year-round**
- **Milked across two sites**
- **Farm grows 650 acres of maize for 40% TMR inclusion**
- **3,800 total head of cattle**

Fraser Jones has been growing KWS Calvin for several seasons to feed his 1,400-cow, high-yielding Holstein herd. It is the main variety, as it suits the farm and reliably hits yield and quality targets. His maize agronomist, Ian Evans of BCW Agriculture, is another KWS Calvin fan.

Fraser says: “KWS Calvin has high yield and starch potential and the silage feeds out well. It is early-maturing and allows time to plant the following crop, although an ultra-early variety is usually sown on some of the heavier land.

“My phone is always red hot pre-season, with all the seed merchants wanting to sell me their maize varieties. I have tried alternatives in the past, but I know what works on my farm. My view is that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. KWS Calvin does what it says on the packet.”



Fraser Jones

“

I have tried alternatives in the past, but I know KWS Calvin works on my farm.

CALCOURT FARMS FACTS

- 2,500-acres of owned and rented land
- Soil type ranges from heavy clay to medium light
- ‘One-diet’ TMR also contains whole-crop cereals and a concentrate pre-mix
- Parlours: 24:24 herringbone and 72-point rotary
- No concentrates fed in parlour
- Milk sold to Mueller
- Herd CI 405 days
- Heifers calved at 24.5 months

MAIZE SILAGE ANALYSIS CALCOURT FARMS 2021

DM	37.2%
Starch	38.5%
ME	11.7 Mj/kgDM
D-value	74.2

NARROW ROW MAIZE MANAGEMENT

Fraser had great results at Calcourt Farms last year using 50cms row spacings, instead of the usual 75cms. He is convinced that narrow row spacings are the way forward for maximising yields and achieved a whopping 2t/acre freshweight yield increase in 2021. This took his (weighbridge) yield figure up to 21.5t/acre and there was no quality penalty, as he hit the 38.5% farm maize starch average.

“

Narrow row widths will be a firm fixture in my maize-growing system for the years to come.

He has worked out that yield bonus from using narrow row widths has effectively increased his growing area by 63 acres; without him having to take on extra land. He invested in his own 12-row Vaderstad Tempo drill and slightly upped the seed rate across his entire maize acreage, citing other benefits including a saving on contractor drilling costs, no extra travelling time or fuel costs and the advantage of field knowledge. The Tempo is being brought out of the shed again this year and he reckons the drill will have paid for itself within two years.

“The seed rate increase has a knock-on effect on the plant numbers/square metre,” he says. “Standard rows leave the mature plants almost touching, but the extra within-row distance gives each individual greater access to sunlight. Narrow rows also reduce soil erosion and run-off, promote good soil health and help to reduce pollution, while the nutrient loss reduction boosts plant uptake. I could use tram-lining, but I see no need for it at the moment.”

Mr Jones says that a chance remark by an agronomist gave him the idea of experimenting with narrow row widths for maize sowing.

“Like many other growers, I had always followed the traditional route and drilled maize at the standard row width; I had not considered any other option. As soon as the concept was mentioned, I immediately thought that it made sense and I was keen to try it out.

“Local growers have heard about my results and having been phoning me, to ask whether I would use my drill on their own crops. However I am focused on my dairy cows and do not have time for anything else, although I am pleased to be able to share the tip with fellow farmers.

“Out of all the investments that I have made in recent years, the maize drill stands out as the most worthwhile. Narrow row widths will be a firm fixture in my maize-growing system for the years to come,” says Mr Jones.

CALCOURT FARMS NARROW ROW MAIZE MANAGEMENT

- Standard rate of 50kgs/acre of DAP fertiliser applied for 2021 (slightly increased rate for 2022)
- Seed rate increased from 42,000/acre to 48,000, to accommodate extra yield potential
- FYM, slurry and purchased fertiliser
- Creation of a fine seedbed, compaction and weed competition minimised
- A foliar spray is applied when the crop reaches about a foot high
- Maize usually grown for 5 consecutive years; often followed by winter wheat
- No lodging reported in 2021
- Marginal increase in seed and fertiliser bill for 2022

“

The possible benefits of different of row width continues to be investigated for use in mainstream growing.

JOHN MORGAN KWS



Phosphate Deficiency

A Case for Foliar Feed?

Phosphate deficiency commonly occurs at the juvenile (1-5 leaf stage); the first visible sign of a problem.

However, localised P deficiency can occur below the surface just days post-drilling.

Nutrient is supplied from the seed to the newly-formed root structure, but once the reserve is utilised the plant relies on seedbed nutrition.

If your crop shows deficiency signs, apply a foliar feed in a period of rising temperatures to promote uptake.

Ensure a **pest, disease** and **stress-free** maize crop

- KWS has developed the Maize Field Guide to help you get the most from your maize crop. It covers crop development, pests and diseases
- With crop management beginning from the day you plant your seed, it will help to ensure the best results — Download our field guide here



? DID YOU KNOW?

If you scan the QR code on your KWS maize seed bag, you will find information on seed weight and data for the variety to help you when sowing

Introducing...

Andrew Cook, our new KWS Maize Product & Technical Sales Manager

We are delighted to welcome Andrew Cook to our KWS UK Maize team based in Lydney, Gloucestershire.

Andrew joins us with a wealth of experience, having managed the family dairy farm for over a decade and worked for seed company, Germinal GB, as area sales manager for the South of England. Andrew is waiting to help you with any aspect of maize-growing; he can be contacted on **07970 734363**, or by email at **andrew.cook@kws.com**



Andrew Cook

my
KWS

Our top maize tools.

Sign up to **myKWS** to gain access to **free online tools** to help with the cultivation of your maize crop throughout the year.



Seed Rate Calculator



Soil Temperature Tool



Maize Seed Service



Field Vitality Check



Heat Unit Tool



KWS

OPEN DAYS

If you wish to visit us in 2022, please contact your merchant or get in touch with the KWS Maize team – we look forward to seeing you!



MAIZE 360

We also have a virtual tour of our demonstration site

During the Covid outbreak in 2020 we launched a virtual tour of the demonstration site. It was so well-received that for 2022 we have decided to do both – we hosted numerous visitors last September and also updated the Maize 360 site which you can watch from the comfort of your home/office.

Meet the Team

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