

myKWS MAIZE

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 17 | AUTUMN 2023



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Introducing **Boost Hybrids**, part of our **Seed2FEED** initiative

SEEDING
THE FUTURE
SINCE 1856



Welcome...

...to issue 17 of the myKWS quarterly newsletter, which features technical information and timely advice to help you to make the most of your maize crop.

In this publication, we hear from milk producer, Spencer Mogridge, who has had great success this season with one of our flagship varieties, **KWS Anastasio**, with comments from the farm's agronomist.

We also highlight our **2024 Maize Variety Portfolio**, which not only provides detailed advice about our varieties, old and new, but is also packed with information on how to select the right variety for your own farm situation. The Portfolio showcases the rapid genetic progress being made on breeding varieties which combine early harvest potential with very high starch content and DM yields – one of our new ultra earlies has an average starch yield of 39.2%!

Also new for this issue is the launch of our innovative concepts, **EnergyBoost** and **SiloBoost** Hybrids. They divide our varieties according to their end use, to simplify varietal selection.

SEASONAL REVIEW

ANDREW COOK, KWS

It has been a bumper year for maize crops in general, with high freshweight figures being reported. Rain delayed play in some regions and growers who held off planting until the soils warmed up benefited from the more favourable sowing conditions.

This underlines the importance of keeping the drill in the shed until soil temperatures reach about 8°C on lighter soils and 12°C on heavier land.

The favourable June temperatures kept the crop growing well and a second warm spell in September brought forward maturity. This allowed for a timely harvest on most farms, with crops cut at about the target 32-34% dry matter.

Starch levels are expected to return closer to the 5-year average following the generally elevated levels of 2022. The higher overall yields this season returning the stover and grain ratio to within the expected range. This will make it easier for milk producers who feed a high maize inclusion in the ration to balance the diet to reduce the risk of acidosis.

We will have to wait until maize silage analysis results start to filter through, but overall it has been a good year for the UK maize crop.



Andrew Cook

Seed Treatment Update

The maize industry has been issued a reprieve, following a proposal to remove three key seed treatment products which help to maintain yields, reports KWS' Andrew Cook. The licensed use of the fungicide, bird repellent and insecticide dressings looks highly likely to be permitted for the 2024 season.

"We are confident that Redigo M, Korit 420 FS, and Force 20 CS can be used as seed dressings for spring sowing," says Mr Cook. "The use of these important seed treatment ingredients came under threat because of a regulatory change. In response, KWS and the rest of the industry banded together to oppose the removal, and the Government has pledged to change the law to delay the ban and asked the Chemicals Regulation Division of the HSE for emergency authorisations to allow their continued use.

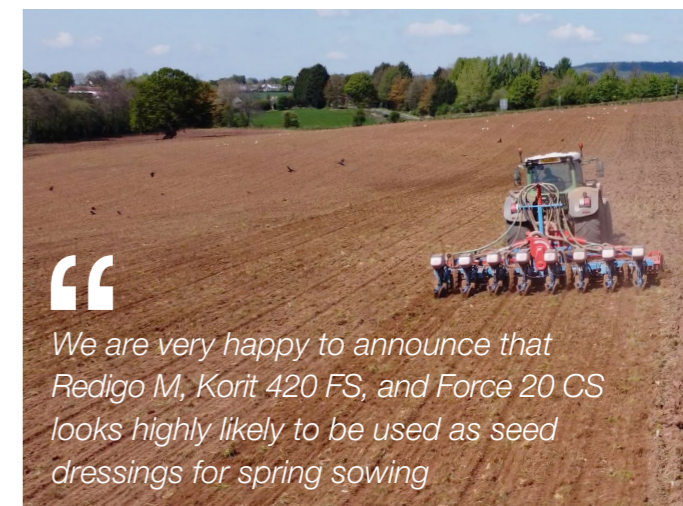
"This will undoubtedly be very welcome news for maize growers, as the sowing of untreated seed puts maize crops at greater risk of attack from soil-borne pathogens, bird damage and insects. Redigo M (prothioconazole + metalaxyl) is used as a fungicide, while Korit (ziram) acts as a bird deterrent and Force (tefluthrin) is an insecticide product."

The positive news comes at a critical time, as KWS is about to embark on the preparation of maize seed for spring planting, he adds.

"We will be permitted to use Redigo M and Korit 420 FS as part of our Initio Bird Protect seed treatment option, which will be available across our maize variety portfolio. We will also be offering Force 20 CS across three or four selected KWS varieties."

SEED TREATMENT BACKGROUND

Post-Brexit regulations stipulate that all UK pesticides must be approved by the GB Pesticides Approval Register. However, the licences for the three treatments were due to run out on 1st January 2024, with no use-up date permitted. The change in law and emergency authorisations would give existing products a usage extension and/or allows more time for re-registrations to be completed.



? DID YOU KNOW?

Starch degradability improves over time once maize is in the clamp.

Remember to sample monthly to fine tune rations for optimal animal performance.



Feedout Tips

- Ensure a rapid feedout to prevent spoilage, aiming for 1m/day in winter and 2m/day in summer
- It is important to keep a tight cut to prevent moulding at the clamp face
- Any spilled silage should be removed to reduce the risk of heating

Focus on...

KWS ANASTASIO FAO180/190

Scan this code to watch our video review of KWS ANASTASIO



“

We have cut so much maize for silage this time that we are having to rent clamp space from a neighbour.



Spencer Mogridge

FARM CASE STUDY – DAIRY HERD

Maize Harvest 2023

SPENCER MOGRIDGE, THORNTON FARM, STURMINSTER NEWTON

Having been recommended to try KWS Anastasio by the farm agronomist, Spencer Mogridge drilled 40 acres of the variety this year, as part of the farm's annual 90-acre total. He plans to use KWS Anastasio exclusively for the 2024 season.

“KWS Anastasio has out-yielded the other varieties and 8 acres of an early-drilled crop gave a tremendous performance of 18-20 freshweight tonnes/acre, compared with our average of 14-15 tonnes/acre,” says Spencer, who milks 180 cows with his brother, Ralph. “We have cut so much maize for silage this time that we are having to rent clamp space from a neighbour.”

The maize harvest results show a significant improvement over earlier predictions, he says.

“This is a fairly high rainfall area with clay soils and this year's wet spring delayed sowing; our usual sowing date is 15th-20th April. It is important to wait for suitable conditions, but a long dry spell followed planting. We were so worried about the maize that we put in some cereals for whole cropping. Fortunately, we need not have been concerned and production has more than met our expectations.”

The maize must be cut by 10th-15th October, as the farm receives a payment from Wessex Water to follow with a mustard cover crop. Despite a

relatively poor start to the growing season, the entire acreage was safely in the clamp by this date, with the main harvest starting on 5th October.

“Ideally, maize is fed all year round, but it often runs out and that happened this time, so an 8-acre block was cut on 25th August. A shortfall will not be a problem for the 12 months ahead; the KWS Anastasio grew fourteen feet tall and the cobs looked very good.”

Calving the cows all year round, the brothers achieve an average yield of 9,500kgs at 4.4% butterfat and 3.35% protein from their commercial black and white herd, with milk sold to local cheese maker, Barbers. Winter production relies solely on a total mixed ration which includes grass and maize silage; chopped straw; a protein blend; soya; maize distillers' grains, and vitamins and minerals. The cows are grazed in the summer and the milkers are fed as one group. A multi-cut silage system taking four or five cuts each year has helped to improve milk from forage figures.

The Mogridges put family first, when it comes to milking times, he comments, and they will continue to rely on maize to boost milk production.

“We milk at 2am and 2pm, explains Spencer. “It suits us, because on a normal day we can finish work at 5-5.30pm and that gives us time to spend with the family during the evening.”

“

This farm has grown maize for thirty years; it gives us an extra 1-2kgs/head milk yield and helps to maintain quality. Maize silage is hard to beat as a dairy cow feed and we may even try producing some crimped maize for next year.

Luke Mogridge



Head and shoulders above the rest! Spencer's son, Luke, who is six feet tall, standing in front of KWS Anastasio.



Ben Allard

An Agronomist's Assessment

BEN ALLARD, PEARCE SEEDS

“A big, bulky crop with good-sized cobs and excellent early vigour,” is how Spencer's maize agronomist, Ben Allard, describes KWS Anastasio. He recommended the variety as an ideal fit for the Thornton Farm soil type and for its ability to cope well in case of a difficult season.

“Weather conditions appear to be changing and we have had a couple of years which have seen quite serious summer droughts in some regions” says Ben. “My philosophy is to choose a variety that will get out of the ground quickly to avoid corvid damage, sit well during spells of low rainfall and go on to produce high yields.

“Some of the farm's lighter soils were chosen for the maize and it was given a post-emergence herbicide, to avoid the young maize plants having to face weed competition. Samples taken at the 2-4 true-leaf stage showed that the crop would benefit from a foliar micronutrient application.

“The foliar spray included phosphorus, zinc and manganese. Crops are just like humans in some ways; a nutritional deficiency will have a negative effect on general health and increase vulnerability to stress. Research has shown that foliar phosphorus in particular can work effectively for maize, in conjunction with an adequate soil application.

“A high-volume, high-quality maize silage crop is a crucial element of the Mogridge family business and KWS Anastasio has not disappointed; the variety has done what it said on the tin,” says Ben.

Boost Hybrids

Optimise your homegrown feed

KWS are pleased to introduce **Boost Hybrids**, as part of **Seed2FEED** to aid variety selection to optimise home grown forage use for the livestock producer explains KWS' Andrew Cook. **Boost hybrids** are selected only from our newest genetic varieties once national list tests have been completed. As new varieties complete the listing process, we will see more **Boost Hybrids** in the next few years.

Boost Hybrids are simply classified into two categories: **EnergyBoost** and **SiloBoost**.

EnergyBoost varieties are generally of the highest energy and starch concentrations to increase ration energy density, ideal for farmers with high grass ratios in the feeding mix. We are pleased to introduce **KWS Temprano** and **KWS Leto** as our first **EnergyBoost** varieties.

SiloBoost varieties are – as they sound – great for filling the silo, typically delivering high total dry matter, and high total starch yields and for use with elevated maize ratios in the mix, promoting maximum feed intakes. **Papageno** is an excellent example of this and is our first **SiloBoost** variety.

Seed2FEED empowers livestock farmers to enhance their homegrown feed in an economical and sustainable way.



EnergyBoost

Emphasis on energy concentration

- KWS TEMPRANO
- KWS LETO



Higher energy content in the feeding mix – the extra energy boost for milk production



Balanced digestion with access to increased bypass starch




Improve milk from homegrown forage through enhanced silage energy content



Better feed quality due to higher starch content in your homegrown feed

For farmers...

- with high grass ratios in feeding mix
- looking for an extra energy boost



SiloBoost

Emphasis on high dry matter yield

- PAPAGENO



Dual purpose use excellent for silage as well as grain harvest



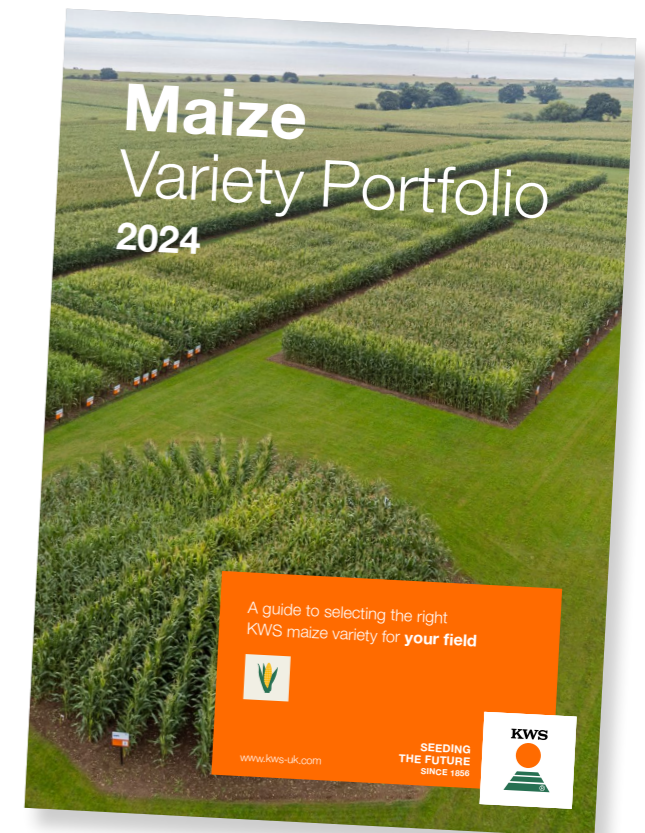
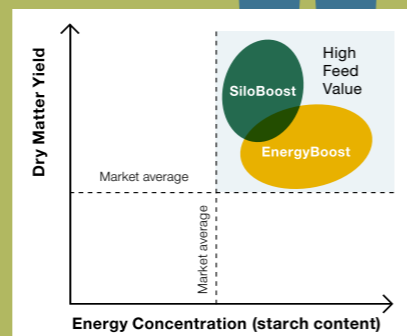
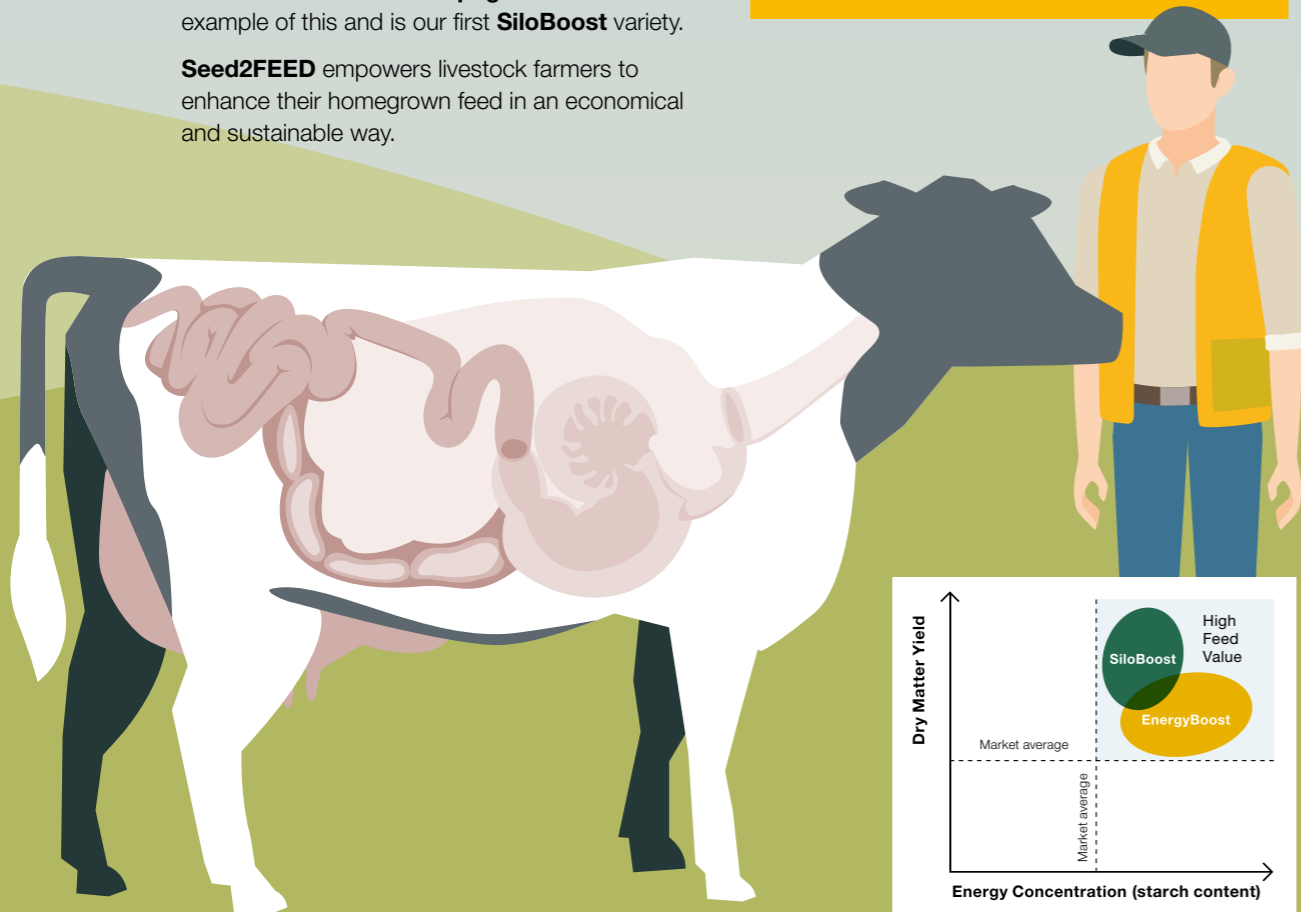
5.5% higher starch yields (relative increase compared with other varieties)



High energy contents in the feeding mix due to exceptional grain yields

For farmers...

- with high maize ratios in the feeding mix
- looking for yield boost in the silo



Our 2024 Maize Variety Portfolio has been published, to help you to select the right variety for your farming situation.

View the booklet online at www.kws-uk.com. You can order a paper copy by emailing maize@kws-uk.com or phoning the office on 01594 528234.

The Portfolio is divided into sections:

- **Ultra Early** FAO (maturity rating) 150-160 (widens the drilling window and improves harvest security)
- **Early/Maincrop** FAO 170-190 (for all mainstream growing areas and maximum starch yield)
- **Late/Biogas** FAO 200-260 (max DM yield and lowest cost/tonne for biogas production)
- **CCM** (corn cob mix) and crimped grain suitability

2024 MAIZE HARVEST COMPETITION

Can you capture the true harvest spirit? We are running our maize harvest photo/video competition again this year, for the chance to win a **£100 Amazon gift voucher** or a **KWS goody bag**. To upload your photo and video entries scan the QR code and see some of the submissions.



Entry closes 16.11.23. (We will select our three favourite videos and three favourite images and our social media followers will vote for the winners. The finalists will receive a KWS goody bag and the overall winner in each category will receive the Amazon gift voucher).





A virtual experience

Maize 360

An online virtual experience of our Maize Demonstration Site at Lydney.

View the crops and listen to our experts as they take you through all of our commercial hybrids and our breeding demonstration.

To experience Maize 360 scan the QR code.



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