



# Grainseed Ltd.



UNIT 3, AIRFIELD INDUSTRIAL PARK, LANGTON GREEN, EYE, SUFFOLK, IP23 7HN

Telephone: (01379) 871073 Fax: (01379) 871038 Email info@grainseed.co.uk

## F A X M E S S A G E

**DATE:** 29/09/2014

**TIME:** 11:27 AM

**TO:**

**FAX:**

**FROM: NEIL GROOM**

**RE:** Farmers Weekly Maize Dry Matters Week 6

**CC:**

Number of pages including cover sheet:

### **Message**

### **Maize clamps filled with quality forage**

Site	Drill date	Ht above sea level (m)	Crop dry matter 24 September	Increase from last week
Petworth, Sussex	22 April	50	Harvested	-
Harleston, Norfolk	24 April	30	30.1	+1.4
Crediton, Devon	23 April	118	Harvested	-
Ticknall, Derbyshire	4 May	67	34.2	+ 5.7
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire*	16 May	32	26.1	+ 1.7
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland PLASTIC	23 April	45	30.4	+ 3.0
SRUC, Dumfries, Scotland*	23 April	45	22.6	+ 1.6

\* Variety Es Picker, all other sites are Es Ballade. Variety under plastic Es Marco.

With maize harvesters chopping in all regions of the country then the prospect of a good winter by feeding high quality maize silage is likely for many growers comments Neil Groom Technical Director for Grainseed Ltd.

“Whether feeding dairy or beef cattle, or providing feedstock for an AD unit, then this year’s maize crop should allow good performance. This is due to the excellent summer that we have had in all regions allowing maize to become fully mature some 10 – 14 days earlier for most growers”.

It will be important to get the silage regularly analysed throughout the winter and if you can seal the clamp for 6 weeks before opening then starch accessibility in the rumen becomes more efficient and more of the hard glassy starch will be utilised by the cow.

Maize starch is kinder for cattle since most bypasses the rumen reducing the acid load to the rumen. This makes maize starch considerably less fizzy than wheat or barley grains and allows more of the energy in the diet to be fed as starch.

“As we move into October it is likely that rain will return and you will need to keep roads and lanes clear of mud. Plan for harvest and get a sweeper brush operating as soon as you start harvest rather than waiting until the trailers have created a problem on the road. Filling wet gateways with hardcore and bringing trailers along farm tracks to clean tyres before the road will help.”

The warm autumn means that planting a catch crop of Italian ryegrass or drilling winter wheat behind maize is a good option. Maize roots keep the soil structure open and so even if it rains a good seedbed can be created if you work the soil straight behind the harvester.

If growing quality wheat after maize ensure all the trash is buried during cultivations, ideally by ploughing, but for grazed grass a quick tined cultivation to open the soil and remove wheelings is sufficient and grass seeds can be spun on.

Nick Tibbenham sampling for Farmers Weekly in Norfolk has harvested his fields sown after sugarbeet, but the fields after wheat have more yield and will be harvested this week. “We know that growing maize after beet is a compromise, but that’s how our rotation works out. This year with some maize on good land after wheat we’ll see the yield difference, it looks like 4-5 tonnes per acre as the standing crop”.