I n the same way that LGAN maize varieties will produce an energy-rich, high starch forage, so LGAN grass varieties will produce highly digestible, high protein grass silage. Together they will be the base of a cost-effective ration.

Grass leys vary considerably in their nutritional quality. Newly reseeded grasses produce better quality feed than older leys, but varieties of the same grass will differ considerably too. LGAN varieties are bred and mixed to deliver the quality forage you need.

LGAN varieties deliver on two fronts:

1) They provide high sugars to fuel the rapid fermentation you need, but they are also high in digestible fibre (dNDF). While sugars are used up during fermentation, the extra energy from dNDF remains and improves the overall D value of the resultant silage.

2) They have a high protein content which dovetails with the high energy in maize.

In independent trials at the Schothorst Feed Research Institute in The Netherlands, LGAN grass mixtures were fed in a ration with maize silage. Cows fed on the LGAN grass silage averaged 1.4 litres/day more than cows fed on a silage based on a conventional grass seed mixture. The digestibility and energy value of the diet improved by 3% and there was a 5% improvement in overall feed efficiency.

By knowing the feed values of individual varieties, we can develop mixtures that deliver high quality forage at every cut, combined with good yields.

**RESEEDING OPPORTUNITY**

With forage in short supply, it is vital you set out to produce the best yield of high quality feed. Grasping the reseeding opportunity this spring will be important, but make sure you use the best quality mixtures.

Selecting a mixture which will produce a high quality silage to complement maize will give total forage output a welcome boost.

LGAN Quality Silage Mixture is an ideal solution. It is a very high-yielding two year ley, based on Italian and Hybrid ryegrasses which produces excellent feed quality silage, combining high sugar, dNDF and protein levels. It is capable of four good cuts per season and is the perfect mixture for multicut systems.

The chart left shows that in trials, this mixture produced huge yields of high energy silage, enabling it to yield more energy per hectare than any other mixture.

For farmers wanting a protein boost, LGAN Protein Silage Mixture is a medium term ley combining high sugar perennial ryegrasses for energy and digestibility with red and white clover for a high protein feed. Silages are typically 2-3% higher protein than non-clover mixtures.

With grass seed yields down last year due to the drought, it will pay to get your orders in early to help protect this year’s forage.

**MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR FORAGES**

Any farm businesses will have empty clamps at turn out this year and will need to increase their forage output to ensure sufficient feed for next winter, and for buffer feeding in 2020. One way to boost stocks will be to grow an increased area of maize, either on your own farm or perhaps by having maize contract grown by neighbours.

Whatever your maize strategy, you need to make sure that varieties you choose are; 1) suited to the farm 2) early maturing to ensure feed is available sooner and 3) that the forage is energy rich to boost production.

LGAN varieties have the genetic potential to deliver superior nutritional value, while maintaining excellent agronomic qualities and yields. This means that they deliver in the field and in the trough, improving milk from forage and reducing purchased feed requirements.

LGAN varieties also have increased energy content from both improved starch and digestible fibre content, which drives improvements in feed efficiency. Quality does not come at the expense of quantity, and they are high yielding for both dry matter and energy. Combined with early maturity and good early vigour, this makes them suitable for all situations. Varieties like Ambition and Glory are proven to perform consistently year in, year out.

Selecting the most suitable variety for your circumstances can make a big difference to production from forage. The increased dry matter production and high ME content means a top variety will produce sufficient energy to produce 1000 litres more milk per hectare, which can add up to a big difference in feed use.

Making decisions about varieties and getting your seed ordered early will be the foundation for a more productive maize season.
PROVEN VARIETIES
FOR ALL SITUATIONS

All farms are different and the objectives of every business are different. Whatever your requirements from your maize crops – high yield, high quality, early maturity or a combination of all of these – there is an LGAN variety which will match them and deliver the maize crop you require. But don’t just take our word for it. Farmers around the country have achieved consistent success with LGAN maize varieties, which have been bred to deliver exceptional quality forage, combining superb cell wall digestibility and starch content with outstanding yields. Being early maturing with excellent early vigour, they deliver year on year.

**AMBITION**

Growing maize is an essential part of our system but it can be a challenge. Farming heavy loam at 620 feet above sea level it’s essential we use a variety that gets away quickly and matures early - we also need high starch to help meet our milk contract.

Our 220 cows are averaging 10,100 litres. Maize is the major forage we feed, making up 60% of the forage in the TMR, and we aim to feed it all year round so we need a dependable and consistently yielding variety. We have been growing AMBITION for six years and it has never let us down, whatever the season throws at us - I don’t need to look anywhere else.

**Pinnacle**

Just five miles from Land’s End we farm in some pretty harsh conditions, but by selecting maize varieties carefully we are able to produce the good quality feed essential for our 300 cow mixed breed herd.

Maize is an important forage for our herd and we aim to feed it all year round. We need a combination of good feed quality, high yields and a consistent variety and will look to grow new varieties to find one that suits us.

We first grew Pinnacle in 2017 which wasn’t the best maize growing year, but it always looked good. It matured well with full cobs. In the diet it is complementing the grass silage really well.

Pinnacle performed well in 2018 and we will be growing an increased area this season as we look to rebuild stocks.

**Gatsby**

With 450 cows in milk at any one time averaging 9,500 litres on a robot milking system, quality maize is a crucial component of our system. The diet is based on high quality forage and we want to produce enough to allow maize to be fed as 50% of the total forage, 365 days a year.

“Our focus is on producing the best quality feed we can, and plenty of it! Maximising energy production from the entire plant to give the best return on investment.”

We grow 170 acres of maize a year and first grew GATSBY in 2017. It performed well in the field all season and fed well too. In 2018, 50% of maize grown was GATSBY and it will be the same this season.

Whether you are growing maize for feed, as a break-crop from cereals, or as feedstock for AD, Gatsby ticks all the boxes:
- Very high dry matter and massive ME yields – lowering costs of production
- High starch content and good fibre digestibility for high quality forage
- Early - no delay for establishing successor crops

**Glory**

Growing maize is an essential part of our system but it can be a challenge. Farming heavy loam at 620 feet above sea level it’s essential we use a variety that gets away quickly and matures early - we also need high starch to help meet our milk contract.

Our 220 cows are averaging 10,100 litres. Maize is the major forage we feed, making up 60% of the forage in the TMR, and we aim to feed it all year round so we need a dependable and consistently yielding variety.

Our variety has to yield consistently and feed quality is key, with good starch content to promote intakes.

GLORY ticked all the boxes when we first grew it and I am so pleased with its performance, it’s now the only variety I grow with 80 acres planned.

**Pinpoint delivers on all fronts and sets new standards in quality forage production:**
- Early maturing and suitable for all sites
- Excellent eyespot tolerance making it suitable for at-risk areas
- Excellent cell wall digestibility to promote high dry matter intakes and to maximise energy content