

## **From Coca-Cola to the South Island Agricultural Field Days (Really!!)**

**22/02/2013**

It's a long way from keeping an eye on the use of Coca Cola vending machines worldwide to promoting farm systems at the South Island Agricultural Field Days.

As farm management technology advanced and monitoring and control solutions became an everyday necessity, Masterton firm Harvest Electronics broke ground at the forefront of the manufacture of remote monitoring equipment.

The innovative company was established in the garage of managing director Peter Munn in 1990.

Until 2000 it developed products for the wireless monitoring of Coca-Cola vending machines and grew to be the largest wireless network of its type in the world with 60,000 vending machines online.

Now Harvest Electronics designs, manufactures and monitors telemetry equipment – machines which automatically measure and transmit data from remote sources – using GSM cellular networks and the Iridium satellite network.

The wireless systems are completely customisable and are particularly useful in farming as the company's specialty is providing equipment for outdoor remote unattended locations requiring reliable information supply.

Irrigation and soil moisture, effluent use and weather are all able to be monitored with Harvest Electronics' products designed to assist farmers.

At the South Island Agricultural Field Days, Harvest Electronics is displaying a travelling irrigator with its attached monitor which records GPS location, speed and pressure. If any of the set limits are breached, the pump is shut off and a text message automatically alerts the farmer.

A base station configured as a weather station and a long range remote will also feature as part of the Harvest Electronics display.

The compact, solar-powered and weather resistant wireless long range remotes can monitor multiple irrigation areas from one system and do not usually require towers or radio repeaters to run.

South Island Agricultural Field Days provides opportunities to view machines in their working state and to reinforce the relationship between farmers, service providers, scientists and technical experts. The event will be held at Lincoln University Farm, 20km from Christchurch, on March 20-22. There are more than 380 exhibitors on the 35-hectare site and between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors are expected.