

Reducing overspraying of cotton crops

The problem of overspraying neighbours' crops is being minimised with alarm messaging of strong winds to mobile phones or computers.

The NSW north coast company, Information Technology (EIT) located at Alstonville, has developed recording and alarming systems to accurately monitor winds and their direction during crop spraying.

EIT Project Manager, Col Peak said "We have been able to enhance the alarm messaging component of EIT's data recorders to provide information of wind speed and direction through SMS and/or computer systems.

"We can monitor wind speed and direction at multiple locations around the farm and link back to a central point using EIT telemetry. Once alarm conditions are experienced at any monitoring point, an SMS can be sent to any mobile phone or standard telephone. In addition to raising alarms, the recorder will store information as a permanent record of weather conditions during spray operations.

"Currently there are 10 available alarm functions, which can be assigned to any channel of data recorders which provides quite a bit of flexibility.

"The alarming and recording technology can also be used for monitoring other conditions such as soil moisture levels, temperature, humidity and water levels giving growers the opportunity to help them manage their properties effectively and efficiently," says Col. "When a high or low alarm status is reached, a 40 character text message can be automatically sent to a mobile phone.

"Alternatively, voice messaging can be sent via standard telephones. We are currently looking at integrating this technology into tractor cabins so that spray operators can have up to the minute information on wind conditions for spray operations."

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