

HEAT RANGER

Enhancing Your Crop Climate

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July2013 update #2

Well we have Heat Ranger out of the Factory and in the paddock. The fibreglass base is not quite finished but will be in the next few days.

We did not make it to
"Broadacres"

295 Brookside & Burnham Rd
until 1.50 pm on Monday 22nd July and the weather was not permitting but we have been able to test the functionality of things like moving it round the farm on the three point linkage and we have done some preliminary runs with and without the gas burner operating, but the wind levels were too high to look at the effective range on Monday.



Unloading and assembly on site took just half an hour and uncounted cups of coffee consumed by the support team. And then it was time for our first test drive.

Simply a matter of connecting it up to the tractor and driving it out to the Black current bushes, careful to avoid any power lines on the way.



Leading the Revolution in Clim



The 1.5km journey was accomplished without incident and as the Canterbury sun slips down to the horizon the cloud cover reminds us that rain is forecast for the next day, and no hint of frost to be seen.

We have now got two of our masts up and operating (only 1 in the picture) and when we get a frost prediction sequence we will get a couple more up and be into testing under frost conditions as soon as we can. In the meantime there are the inevitable little details that we are tidying up to allow for different tractor configurations and burner placement to get the most effective combustion.



We have also tried it with a much smaller tractor and that worked just fine too.

If you check the website <http://harvestalarms.com/w.cgi?hsn=9224> you can see that we had less than zero degrees this morning on "tower 5" at 15m above ground level, but at ground level the lowest temp did not quite get down to 3 degrees, so the higher air was colder than the lower air.

To get all the 8 thermometers on the same chart for each tower you can click onto the unit page e.g. "towers 1-4" or "Towers 5-8".

As you can imagine we are pretty excited about our progress and this has only been achieved with the help that you have given us.

Next stop is the Hort NZ conference in Wellington next week and an introduction to Heat Ranger for the Waikato contributors and friends on Friday 12 August, 4p.m. at the Ferrybank Lounge.

See you soon

Fred Phillips
Project Manager
24 July 2013