

System Maintenance Guidelines

Dairy Farm

Base Station/Remotes

Clean solar panels with a damp cloth every 6 months or as needed. Ensure solar panels are able to receive a minimum of 4 hours of sunlight on a cloudless sunny day. Especially for remotes, regularly check for rust or other damage on case or aerial and ensure that vegetation or other objects are not obstructing the solar panels or aerials.

Rain Gauge

These should be cleared of debris at least every 6 months and keep vegetation or other obstructing objects at a reasonable distance. The Base Station needs to be level so that the rain gauge operates accurately. Use the bubble level inside the rain gauge base to aid in leveling. Clean cobwebs and insects from inside the bucket, clean tipping bucket and check that it tips freely with very little force i.e. you should be able to blow on it to make it tip.

Wind Sensor

Visual inspection every 6 months for anything that may be hindering operation (e.g. cobwebs). Check for smooth operation - you should be able to move the vane and cups by blowing on them. Wind sensors should be replaced after 3 years if optimum performance is required.

Temperature/Humidity & Temperature/Humidity/Pressure Sensors

Check to make sure nothing is obstructing airflow through the radiation shield. Replacement of the sensor may be required after 3-5 years.

Solar Radiation Sensor

Carefully clean the face of the sensor with alcohol or warm water with a small amount of detergent water every 3 months or as needed.

Soil Moisture Sensor and/or Temperature Sensor

No maintenance required if kept in soil.

Effluent Irrigator Monitor

Check solar panels when irrigator (or pod monitor) is moved. Clean with a damp cloth whenever you cannot see through the glass. Check the GPS antenna and cabling to the pressure and speed sensors for damage, and that the wheel magnets are still intact. There are two magnets per wheel on a travelling irrigator, four per wheel on a pivot. Check inside the die cast aluminium case every 6 months for any signs of corrosion and replace the desiccant bag when it turns pink.

Alarms will be tested at time of installation, no further testing is required afterwards as long as no key components are changed and effluent failsafe is engaged (when failsafe is engaged, it is effectively self-testing).

Milk Vat Sensors

Alarms should be checked every 3 months. To test, call Harvest Tech Support (0800 HARVEST or +64 6 370 1991). Testing needs to be conducted during a milking event.

Insect Repellent

Recommended to be replaced every 12 months. Our new bottle with a wooden wick allows the eucalyptus oil to evaporate slowly.