

## Silage, crop insights

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Engineers Henry Bettle (left) and Chris Cook, EDAC, Christchurch

Silage contractors and brokers, crop growers and dairy farmers can benefit from a new drymatter content analyser, says the developer, a Christchurch electronics firm working with Crop & Food Research. After drying a forage sample, EDAC Electronics Ltd's e-Harvest analyser yields data that helps determine the best time to cut whole-crop cereals for silage, or measures the DM content of a range of standing feed crops,

including pasture. Drying the sample takes less than one hour.

Application include: on-site checking of crop DM% by contractors before they commit to making silage; monitoring the progress of DM% change during crop development; and calculating DM feed allowances from wet weight loads in silage wagons.

It can also be used with Harvest-prediction software (Agricom NZ Ltd) for the best timing of whole crop cereal silage harvesting.

EDAC, a private company founded in 1992, says its mission is "turning innovative ideas into marketable agritech products."

At the 2003 Westpac New Zealand Hi-Tech Awards it was highly commended for the most innovative product and won the Biotech Company of the Year Award.

Products are designed and made at the head office in Christchurch. EDAC also has a sales office in Melbourne.

Other products include the EDAC frost monitor, alarm diallers and a bioorganic delivery system that sprays bees with pollen and other beneficial products to enhance orchard yields.