



CASE IN POINT

- LOCATION:** Everidge Farm
Dooly County, Ga.
- SITUATION:**
 - Family farm
 - 3,000 acres with 2,500 irrigated
 - Controlling and monitoring 40 pivots
- CHALLENGE:**
 - Reduce driving on soft red soil, which creates divots in field
 - Find new ways to control pumps and pivots from the edge of the field
 - Eliminate the need to place control panel at the edge of the field.
- DEPLOYMENT:**
 - Install new Valley[®] ICON1 smart panel
 - Implement Wi-Fi Access with Valley ICON Link to control pivots and pumps remotely
- EFFECT:**
 - Control of well and pivot without burying wire
 - No more damaged crops or soil compaction from driving to the pivot
 - Time and money savings

ICON1 Smart Panels Eliminate Driving to the Pivot, Saving Valuable Time & Money

Scott Everidge in Dooly County, Ga., is a second-generation farmer who works with his mother, step-dad and two uncles. He grows cotton, peanuts, corn, wheat and soybeans on approximately 3,000 acres.

Twenty-five hundred acres are irrigated under 40 pivots, all of which Everidge manages himself. He says his father believed in and adopted irrigation early on, which is one reason they’ve stayed strong even in the tough years.

“In the old days, we had three pump stations on a creek that ran through our land,” he says. “We only had six or seven pivots, and they ran on generators. They helped us stay in business, but they took a ton of my father’s time. On the other hand, because of advancements in technology – like electric motors, variable frequency pumps, new Valley smart panels and more – I can manage 40 pivots by myself.”

Saving the soil

All of Everidge’s pivots are within about a seven-mile radius, and he can see 15 of them right from his front door. He generally has gone to the field to manage them, though the soft, red soil of Georgia made it a bit of a challenge.

“The soil divots really easily, so it’s hard to drive on, and I’m doing damage as I go,” Everidge explains. “I don’t like running over crops, either. It’s not an ideal situation. I needed a way to control my pivots from the edge of the field.”

For the past 10 years, he’s been working with sales and service expert Blake Reid of Reid Brothers Irrigation in Unadilla, Ga., to find a solution. First, they installed control panels remotely by trenching in wire from the pivot point to a more convenient spot, like the edge of the field or at the pump. While that made it easier to control his pivots without driving into the field, the wire and labor to bury it was costly.

So when Reid asked Everidge to be among the first to try the new Valley ICON1 smart panel for remote management and control, he jumped at the chance.



Simple, complete control

The ICON1 was designed for growers who want all the capabilities of a smart panel without ever having to go to the pivot point. With the Wi-Fi Access capabilities, Everidge has full access to all the information and control he needs right on his smartphone through the Valley ICON® app.

“Now we can leave the panel at the pivot, but still control both the pivot and the pump from anywhere around the edge of the field,” Everidge explains. “It saves money on installation and wire, and we don’t have to dig up part of the field.”

While Everidge appreciates that he can control his pivots remotely, he still likes to be close by to see exactly what’s happening.

“There’s a definite benefit to the ICON1 for people who want to be in the field while controlling their pivots, but don’t want to go all the way to the pivot point,” he says.

Reid agrees, “Scott can be in the proximity of the field, so he can see what’s happening and do effective troubleshooting, but he doesn’t have to go all the way to the pivot point,” he says. “He has all the benefits of being there, without having to leave his truck or tractor which reduces the wear and tear and extra miles as well.”

The ICON1 panel itself has only three soft touch buttons. While Everidge doesn’t use those, he says they’re easy for the hired help to use when necessary.

“They can go out there and turn the pivot on or off in an emergency, which is all they’d ever need to do,” Everidge says. “And I still have control from my smartphone.”

Using his phone to control his pivots was an easy transition for Everidge. While he currently uses the Valley ICON app on his smartphone to control his pivot, the ICON1 also has AgSense®, a smart irrigation solution from Valley, built in. So he has the option to control his pivots with his phone, tablet or desktop computer from anywhere.

“Who doesn’t check their phone before breakfast?” he says. “I don’t have to be trained on how to use it. It just saves me time and makes life easier.”

More family time

Everidge remembers well how much time his father spent managing pivots, so he’s grateful for any technology that gives him more time at home.

“It’s worth a lot to be able to control my pivots so easily,” he says. “I can have more quality time with my family when I don’t have to be out in the field at the pivot point. That’s something my father didn’t have, and I value it immensely.”

Future applications

Everidge says as time goes on, he plans to replace his older panels with the ICON1.

“I have some newer Valley Pro2 panels that we wired into the edge of the field, so those will stay put for the time being,” he says. “But, as we replace pivots or panels, we’ll start implementing Valley ICON telemetry more and more.”

Obviously, Everidge has seen how technology can benefit his operation and his family life, and he plans to take advantage of that.

“I can see using AgSense on the pivots that are farthest away,” says Everidge. “As I use it, I’ll save a lot more time. I always have my phone with me, which makes management so easy and saves me time. That’s worth a lot to me.”