

# MADE IN NEW ZEALAND PASTURE IRRIGATION SYSTEM AVAILABLE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Highlands Irrigation has recently introduced the new K-Line Irrigation System to British Columbia. Invented by a farmer in New Zealand and developed by a polyethylene pipe manufacturer, K-Line has become the best selection for a pasture irrigation system.

K-Line offers irrigators a relatively low-pressure system that is affordable, easy to move and delivers a low application rate over a 24-hour period. The low volume nozzle ensures complete absorption of 2.0" of water in the 24-hour period. The concept is well accepted in irrigation practice with aluminum irrigation lines. The feature that K-Line presents is the fast and simple daily moves, accomplished from the seat of an ATV or small towing vehicle. The water does not have to be turned off to accomplish the move, which adds to the speed of the operation.



At the heart of the system are a series of small, tough plastic pods protecting small sprinklers attached to special K-Line low-density poly pipe. Each field or pasture has its own sprinkler line customized to suit the shape and size. The lines are run simultaneously depending on water supply.

The concept requires an accurate layout by a Highlands Irrigation Technician who will ensure that the best possible irrigation design requirements have been met and that the sprinklers fit correctly in the field.

In presenting the product the staff at Highlands Irrigation have found some interesting and varied challenges.

Where in BC is K-Line already in use?

## Rafter 25 Ranch, Redstone, BC

First K-Line customers for Highlands Irrigation were Felix and Jasmine Schellenberg. On their ranch at Redstone they already irrigate with two Zimmatic center pivots. In front of their home a large pasture is utilized for the cattle, horses and goats. A separate spring was available to deliver an additional but limited supply of water.

Three different K-Lines were set up on sub mainlines. Only two lines can run at once. However, the lines can be moved between a number of hydrants to cover the area most needing the water.

Jasmine and her daughters Dominic and Fiona share the daily changes. They like the system; find it easy to move and note that they are making full use of the available water.

## John Peachey, Merritt, BC

John Peachey and family moved from Fort Nelson bringing with them their buffalo herd to a hay ranch on the outskirts of Merritt. Besides the wheel lines and hand lines, John designated and fenced an area for pasturing the buffalo and registered Red Angus herd.

Four lines of nine sprinklers were installed and fed from a portable

Beef in B.C. ~November / December 2005

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would like to thank this years pivot customers

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- Celtic Farm, *Cache Creek*
- Devick Ranch, *Heffley Creek*
- Douglas Lake Ranch, *Merritt*
- Fox Dairy, *Quesnel*
- Jackson Ranch, *Cache Creek*
- Newton Ranch, *Alexis Creek*
- Norman Wood, *Lac La Hache*
- Porters Dairy, *Chemainus*
- Riske Creek Ranching, *Riske Creek*
- South Jackson Ranch, *Cache Creek*
- Tatalrose Ranch, *Burns Lake*



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aluminum sub main. Advantages of the K-Line in this situation included the fact that the pressure requirement of K-Line was compatible to the existing system. The flexibility to reach the corners of an irregular shaped field as well as the once daily move was also a help. John found moving the K-Line with his ATV a pleasant break from the demanding effort to change wheel lines and hand lines.

**Vale Farms, Lumby, BC**

Vale Farms operates a grass fed organic beef operation including both hay production and custom grazing. The irrigation system draws from the community supply and the ranch presently utilizes a number of hose reels. One field was characterized by light soil and considerable slope, causing concern for soil erosion.

The K-Line system consisting of 12 lines each with 9 sprinklers was selected to cover the total of 60 acres. Pressure reduction accomplished with Nelson "regulated" R 2000 sprinklers delivers 2 GPM each over a 24-hour period for a total of 2.0" of water. The end result is a low application rate, slow absorption into the soil, and a simple and fast method of moving the sprinklers only once daily from the seat of an A.T.V.

Charles Ruechel and manager Don Hladych say that they can move all 12 lines in less than one hour. They add however that the greatest benefit was eliminating the runoff and soil erosion. They are happy with the result.

**Jill Watt, Barnhartvale, BC**

Most recently Highlands staff received a call from Jill Watt, Agricultural banker with the Royal Bank in Kamloops. Besides her day job Jill runs a grass fed beef and sheep operation as well as raising her family of three children on her ranch in Barnhartvale.

The obvious choice was K-Line on each of the pastures. The 8 sprinkler and 5 sprinkler lines are moved inside of 20 minutes leaving lots of time for other chores. The systems are attached to a community gravity line each with its own filter.

Jill and her family are very pleased with the system. The once daily change and the low application rate gives them a well irrigated pasture with minimal daily effort and lots of flexibility in moving times.

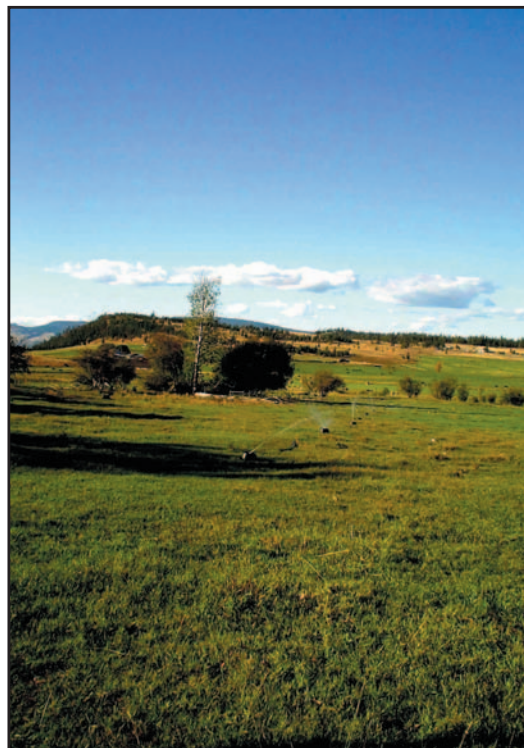
The photos illustrate how Jill converted a dry field into a lush pasture in a very short time.

Where to find K-Line?

Highlands Irrigation offers the K-Line system throughout BC. For assistance with the selection and layout call Dick or Vern in Williams Lake 1-800-665-5909 or Collin and Mike in Kelowna 250 868 2381. The recommendations are made at no cost or obligation.



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