

## Inglewood Farm Project an Irrigation Success Story

Inglewood Farms, a poultry processing facility located in South East Queensland and operating since 1993, is Australia's leading producer of organic, free-range chicken. Having had such huge success in Australia, Inglewood Farms decided to partner with Nulla Farming to break into the tough Asian organic poultry market.

"We knew we needed a solid performing pivot system for precision water application that yields, to make sure we could supply our livestock with consistent feed," said Clive Wylie, Director of Inglewood Farms. "We also knew we needed a solid partner to provide their expertise on the project."

Team Irrigation of Dubbo was contracted to complete the project, which covered 2,500 hectares and would take 12 team members a total of 10 weeks to completely construct and install. "Installing an irrigation system of this magnitude will give them the ability to rotate between a winter wheat crop and soybeans in summer," said Craig Chandler, Co-Director of Team Irrigation.

Five 250 horsepower diesel engines were installed at Hortonvale, with a pumping capacity of up to 250 litres per second, each. Over 4 kilometres of irrigation equipment was used, which included three lateral move irrigators, measuring nearly 700 metres in length, with another two at 780 metres. The entire system taking approximately 36 hours to complete one irrigation run.



"These were large operation systems that were time, labour and fuel efficient," said Chandler. "This system has an incredible capacity to irrigate crops Inglewood and Nulla Farms need to meet their business expansion goals." Nelson Irrigation's 3000 Series Spinner Sprinklers were used to compliment the state-of-the-art system. Their computer designed nozzles ensured the precise water application, operating at a low pressure (15 PSI) to minimise soil compaction and wind drift.

Mr Chandler stated that a GrowSmart Voice Command monitoring system was implemented, which allows the operator to dial up the irrigator from anywhere around the world and check on its current status, pressures, travel speed and application rate. The operator can make changes to the operation of the irrigator, simply by using the phone's keypad. If the irrigator senses a problem itself, it can also phone the operator for directions.



Team Irrigation also plan to link the pivots to a FieldNET system in the future, once it is released in Australia, so pivot location can be viewed via the internet.

Overall, the project was a success with both farms thrilled with the final product, enabling them to expand into a market that they could not have successfully entered alone.