

# Queensland poultry processor looks to Lindsay for large irrigation solutions

Since 1993, the owners of Inglewood Farms have operated their 2,420 hectares (6,000 acres) of organically certified land, processing 5,000 chickens a day at their Poultry Processing Abattoir at Inglewood South East Queensland, Australia. They wanted to break into the tough Asian organic poultry market, but that meant finding a consistent supply of organic crops for their chickens to feed on.

They began to research best practices in irrigation. The farm managers wanted a state-of-the-art system – one that was big enough to efficiently cover more than 1,345 hectares (3,325 acres) of Nulla's farmland.

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**"We knew we needed a solid performing pivot system for precision water application that increased yields to make sure we could supply our livestock with consistent feed."** — Clive Wylie, Inglewood Farms

To produce enough poultry for export, Inglewood would need to partner with Nulla Farming from Cunnamulla, a remote area of Queensland, New South Wales (NSW). They also wanted to break into an organic operation. But to help supply Inglewood with enough food, both farms would need to improve their yields by improving their irrigation practices.



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."

After careful consideration, Inglewood called Team Irrigation, a Lindsay dealership in nearby Dubbo, NSW.



**Largest Irrigation Project completed by TEAM Irrigation Pty Limited to date**

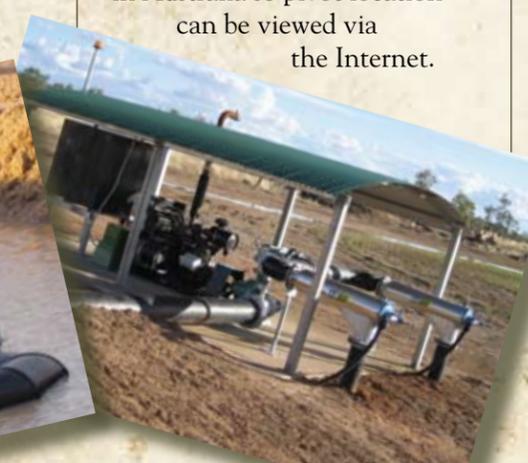
<b>Areas Irrigated</b>	1,345 hectares (3,325 acres)
<b>Total Equipment Delivered</b>	290 tons (580,000 lbs.)
<b>Construction Time</b>	10 weeks

It became the largest irrigation system installed in Team Irrigation's six years of operation – taking 12 team members a total of 10 weeks to completely construct and install.

Team Irrigation used 4.1 km (2.5 miles) of irrigation equipment with nearly 120 tons (270,000 lbs.) of steel spans to create five Zimmatic laterals and one center pivot in a remote area of the country.

The system's three lateral pivots measured nearly 700 meters (2,297 ft.) long and another two that measured 780 meters (2,559 ft.), the center pivot was 465 meters (1,526 ft.) long and covered a 64 hectare (158 acre) rotation. According to Team Irrigation's Craig Chandler, who directed the project with Bob Johnson, it takes approximately 36 hours for the systems to walk down the 3.5 km (2.2 miles) during an irrigation run.

"These were large operation systems that were time, labor and fuel efficient," said Chandler. "This system has an incredible capacity to irrigate the crops Inglewood and Nulla Farms need to meet their business expansion goals."



The entire system was fitted with Nelson Irrigation 3000 series 'spinner' sprinklers: computer-designed nozzles that spray in a plate pattern to insure the correct water application of 220-250 liters of water per second (3487-3963 GPM). With a pressure of 1 bar (15 psi), the system operated at a low pressure to maintain precision application and to minimize soil compaction and wind drift.

Team Irrigation applied advanced irrigation technology to run the pivots efficiently and keep the need for on-site monitoring low.

"The technology we used included a GrowSmart Voice Command monitoring system linked to Australia's 3G mobile cell phone network that allows the grower to dial up the pivot from anywhere and check on the system," said Chandler.

The system allows them to make changes to the operation of the pivot simply by using a cell phone's keypad. They can also monitor the system's status, pressure, travel speed and application rate.

Chandler says they 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.



Queensland

"We were thrilled with the final product," said Wylie. "It's allowed us to expand into a market that none of us could have successfully entered alone."

The lateral move and pivot irrigated wheat in the winter during the first irrigation period. They will rotate to field peas or soybeans for a smaller summer planting. The organic yields were enough to feed the poultry at Inglewood Farms – now Australia's leading producer of organic, free-range chickens.

"In the end, both farms were happy to be able to achieve their goals by putting Zimmatic laterals and pivots in their fields," said Chandler. "And we were satisfied with a project well done."

## TEAM Irrigation Wins Rural Achievement Award

Congratulations to TEAM Irrigation Pty Limited which won the Inaugural Silver Rhino Award for Excellence in Rural Achievement from the Dubbo Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The award was presented at the recent Rhino Outstanding Business Awards Banquet in Dubbo, NSW.

## TEAM Irrigation Pty Limited

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