

Installation & Operation Manual for K-Line Pod Lines and Feed Lines







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Installation & Operation Manual for K-Line Feed Lines and Pod Lines

Prior to following these instructions, the underground portion of your K-Line system should be complete; including water source, pump, risers (hydrants) and power supply.

Instructions for the installation of the above ground portion of the K-Line Irrigation system: **STEP 1: View the K-Line Installation Video**

Please review the K-Line Installation video on our website to become familiar with the K-Line system. It is found on the *Installation* page of our website at www.K-LineNA.com

STEP 2: Tools Required for Installation



STEP 4: Review Your Engineering Plan

The Engineering Plan will often be an aerial/satellite photograph or government drawing. Become familiar with the Plan and identify variations from one part of the system to another. Take note of:

- the number of K-Lines and Feed Lines used
- the size(s) of the tubing on each K-Line
- the number of pods on each K-Line
- the types of sprinklers and nozzle sizes used
- the size of the tapping saddles
- the spaces between sprinklers/pods
- the length of K-Lines and Feed Lines
- the location of each K-Line

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STEP 5: Identify System Components

Identify and become familiar with the K-Line Irrigation components – a list of options and K-Line components with pictures can be found in the catalog located in the *Product Resources* section of our website. Consider the location(s) where you will be constructing the K-Lines. It saves time to collect and group together materials for specific areas of the installation prior to layout and construction of the K-Lines.

Hint: K-Line Male Couplings and quick-connect cam fittings can be pre-assembled in a work shop more easily and efficiently than in the field. If Tow Caps and Male Couplings are pre-assembled, they should be **hand tight** only, because the Tow Cap will be removed later to flush the system.

STEP 6: Lay Out Marker flags

Location, Location, Location - Building each K-Line in the area that it will irrigate is often inefficient (much more time is spent moving materials, tools, and personnel with this method). It is much more efficient to build several K-Lines in one (or a couple of) layout area(s) with easy access to several areas that the K-Lines will irrigate. The layout area should be long enough for the longest K-Line to be constructed in that part of the system, has easy access, in mowed or short pasture, and is free of obstructions and livestock interference.

In installations where there are multiple fences, waterways or other obstacles, it is important to plan ahead on how you will get the Pod Lines and Feed Lines from the layout area(s) to their initial placements. In many situations it is best to have multiple layout locations.

Placing pod and tubing Markers

After consulting the Engineering Plan:

- Use a measuring wheel or measuring tapes to place markers according to sprinkler/pod spacing for the K-Line(s) to be constructed; and
- Use different markers to mark the "start," and "end" of the K-Line.

NOTE: When K-Lines have the same length and sprinkler/pod spacing, multiple K-Lines can be assembled side by side to save time. Completed K-Lines can then be moved to their areas of service.



STEP 7: Tubing and Pod Placement

Single tube Installations: Some K-Lines may require only one, or a portion of one roll of tubing. See the illustration below. Sliding on pods, connecting two lengths of tubing together, and attaching fittings at the start and end of the K-Line are covered in detail on Page 3.



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DO NOT ALLOW IT TO TWIST!

Caution, when rolling out the line by hand, be sure to use the process indicated in the picture. This will eliminate line twist. The green line(s) on the tubing should be in the up position the entire length of the line.

***Hint:** It helps to place a heavy object on the ends of the K.PIPE[®] when rolling it out to keep the tubing in place and prevent it from rolling up behind you. The tubing will relax once rolled out and allowed to sit in the sun.







Make sure that the rubber O-ring is in the groove on the underside of each K-Line Tapping Saddle.



Push the K-Line tapping saddle down over the threaded posts and be certain that the nipple on the underside of the tapping saddle is inserted into the 9/16" hole.



The K-Line tapping saddle should sit snugly over the tubing without a gap. A gap might indicate that you are pinching the tubing on either side of the hole causing water to spray out into the pod during operation.

Hand tighten an 8 mm brass flange nut on each threaded post. At this point, it is important to only hand tighten to the surface of the Tapping Saddle.



With a 13 mm socket (with 8" or longer extension) and ratchet; alternate tightening the #8 metric nuts by switching back and forth several times to make sure that the Tapping Saddle seats level and square over the K.PIPE[®].

TIP: Both nuts should be tightened to the point that approximately 1/2" of the U-Bolt post is protruding from the top of the nut. 1/2" is equal to approximately 12 exposed threads. Overtightening may cause the tapping saddle shoulder to crack.

STEP 9: Sprinkler Installation

All sprinklers require an adapter.* Hand start the adapter into the K-Line tapping saddle (careful not to cross thread). then finish tightening with an adjustable wrench or channel lock pliers.



* Your Engineering Plan may call for the adapter to be replaced with a Nelson Mini Regulator and Nelson Nipple.

Hand start the sprinkler into the adapter (careful not to cross thread). Finish tightening impact sprinklers with a 13/16" open ended wrench or channel lock pliers. Rotator sprinklers are firmly tightened by hand.



Repeat Steps 8 and 9 for each pod in the K-Line.



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STEP 12: Move the K-Line Pod Lines into Position

Once the K-Lines (and Feed Lines) have been constructed, they need to be moved to the individual paddocks or areas that they are to irrigate. Use a tow rope and hook to move each K-Line and the matching Feed Line to the designated field.

If you built each K-Line in the area that it will irrigate, see "**K-Line Shifting**" on page 8 and 9 the explanation of a "**False Cast**" on page 10 for helpful hints on how to reposition the K-Line.

If you need to move your K-Line to another field, follow these guidelines:

- Make use of lanes and fields with connecting gates.
- Plan ahead: use combinations of sharp turns while still in motion, false casts, and extremely gradual sweeping movements. The "Resetting the System from Set 8 to Set 1," STEPS 4 7 on page 10, as well as "K-Line Shifting" on page 8, and the explanation of a "False Cast" on page 10 can be helpful.
- Avoid slow, medium 50 foot arc turns it will increase the likelihood of overturning pods and twisting the tubing.
- If pods overturn, manually flip them back upright so that the green stripe(s) face up for the entire length of the K-Line.
- Sometimes it is necessary to manually straighten the line to reduce the severity of an arc.
- At fences, it is sometimes easier to unhook the K-Line, move the vehicle to the other side of the fence, then reconnect and tow the K-Line under the fence.

Place each K-Line approximately 25' (or half of the Set distance) from the fence or edge of the area to be irrigated. The end pod should be approximately 30' from the end of the area to be irrigated (as illustrated above).

Isolated Field Open Grazing or Hay Field (Side by Side) pick up pick up pick up drop off drop off R √ ORY R 3 7 3 5 7 3 5 7 5 4 6 8 4 6 8 Rise 6 3 4 6 8 3 5 6 8 8 5 7 DRY DRY drop off drop off pick up bick up lrop off COW LANE drop off drop off 4 Dick DRY 4 • pick DRY 5 6 6 5 8 8 drop off of 4 3 Δ 3 DRY pic DRY pick 6 5 6 5 8 7 7

Open Grazing or Hay Field (End to End)

Initial K-Line Placement and Shifting Steps

The diagram to the upper right illustrates the initial placement and the process of moving K-Lines through a normal farm operation. You now have your risers (hydrants) positioned to efficiently irrigate the field. How you initially position your K-Lines will also help you avoid excess travel back and forth across the field saving both time and money. The diagram shows the layout of three individual fields, a small "isolated" fenced in field with one line of K-Lines, an "Open Grazing or Hay Field" with 4 K-Lines above the cow lane, and another "Open Grazing or Hay Field" with four K-Lines below the cow lane.

The most efficient movement process is to position the various K-Lines in the way that allows the operator to reach the next K-Line quickly after dropping the K-Line that has just been moved. After initially placing the first K-Line in the field so that its end is up field, place the next K-Line beside it so that its end is down field as shown above the cow lane in the diagram. Continue alternating the ends of the K-Lines across the field as shown. Then when the operator moves the first K-Line to the opposite end of the field after the first watering set, it is only a short distance to the end of the second K-Line and so forth across the field. The red line on the diagram shows the path the operator would take in shifting the various sprinkler K-Lines during a normal shift process. Often, a K-Line can be moved this way in an average time of 3-5 minutes per K-Line.

The diagram below the cow lane shows the advantage of placing the K-Lines in a large open field area that is aligned end to end. The end of the second K-Line is usually sitting in line with the operator as soon as the first K-Line is dropped. This shifting process is very fast and efficient.

lushing the Lines P The underground mainline and branch lines should be thoroughly flushed after installation, (but before connecting the K-Lines) to remove dirt and plastic chaff. Opening the final riser on the mainline and each Connect the K-Line and Feed Line to the of the branch lines for 10-15 minutes risers (hydrants). should be sufficient. Ε D Flush each K-Line for Unscrew the hand-tightened Tow Turn off the water and reattach the Tow Cap from the male coupling at the several minutes. Cap back into place tightly using pipe end of the K-Line and put it inside wrenches, or large pliers, and Teflon tape. the last pod to prevent misplacing it. or contact us at info@K-LineNA.com or call toll free (866) 665-5463 For more information visit our website www.K-LineNA.com 7



K-Line Shifting

Please also refer to our website for animations and tips that clarify how to shift the K-Line System.

Step 5

Shifting from Set 1 to Set 2

You can shift K-Line Irrigation with an ATV, heavy duty lawn tractor, golf cart, UTV, or similar tow vehicle. Shift Markers placed at the end of the fields are especially beneficial when becoming accustomed to shifting the K-Line, or in irregularly shaped fields - See the tip on page 10. The preferred method of movement is while the sprinklers are in operation. This saves shifting time and the water pressure in the K-Line tubing helps prevent kinking.

The two most important practices to follow when shifting:

1. ALWAYS Shift on the "dry" side. Always begin the shifting procedure on the dry (unirrigated) side of the K-Line. The "dry" (unirrigated) side of a K-Line is the side next to the section(s) of the field that have not been irrigated. This is opposed to the "wet" (irrigated) sections or "Sets" which have been irrigated previously. This will prevent "double loops" in the Feed Line and reduce chances that the tubing will get kinked. Please refer to the illustrations below and note that the "wet" (irrigated) and "dry" (unirrigated) Sets have been labeled.

Step 4

2. When connecting to the K-Line, always face towards mid-field and position the tow vehicle 6 - 8' from, and parallel to, the K-Line.





Facing the far end of the field, position your vehicle alongside and 6 - 8' away from the sprinkler/pod line. Attach the hook and rope at the end of the sprinkler/pod line to the tow vehicle.



Drive along (parallel to) your sprinkler/pod line, staying within 6 -8' of the line. Marker As you approach the midpoint of the zone (running over the feed line), line up with your marker at

the end of the zone.

Continue to the end of the zone and stop when the first pod is approximately 30' from the end of the zone. Unhook the sprinkler/pod line from your tow vehicle.

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Step 6 (Set 2)

Riser

n

DRY - UNIRRIGATED

Feed Line

RRIGATEL

WET -

Cam lock

Shifting from Set 2 to Set 3 Th Net 2 Step 2 Step 2 Step 2



described above and

hook the sprinkler/pod

line to the tow vehicle.



Pull straight forward until you reach the third pod.



Veer right about 50' and straighten to align the vehicle with the end of the zone.



Before reaching the center line, veer back slightly to the left and line up with the marker





Unhook the vehicle from the sprinkler/pod line.

Follow the steps above to shift the line to irrigate each set within a single zone.

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The following steps show how to move the K-Line 50' over (laterally) to the right for the



This is an example of the Sets and order of shifts to completely irrigate a rectangular zone. For other zone or field shapes and sizes please consult your K-Line dealer.

Repositioning the Feed Line

You will need to reposition the Feed Line at least once (sometimes more often) as you shift from Set to Set. In this Shifting Schedule, after the 4th shift, where the K-Line is positioned to irrigate Set 5, the operator must manually disconnect the the Feed Line (if a quick-connect connection is present) and reposition the Feed Line, to the other side of the riser, as shown in **Diagram 1**. The operator must then reconnect the Feed Line to the Pod Line is in the Set 5 position.

The operator may also need to reposition the Feed Line if they see that the first sprinkler/pod (the sprinkler/pod closest to the riser or mid-zone) is out of alignment with the other pods. In this Shifting Schedule, this is most likely to occur after shifting the K-Line to the Set 7 position. In this situation, just pull the Feed Line (near the cam lock connection) to reposition the sprinkler/pod and Feed Line. Once the operator becomes familiar with the shifting procedure, the need to reposition (as in Set 7) will be less frequent.

Shift Markers

Placement of markers at the end of the zone (in the center of each Set width – see the Diagram to the right) gives the operator a target to aim for when shifting the K-Line.

Markers are often brightly colored streamers attached to a fence; or metal t-posts driven into the ground, with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by 6' PVC sleeve slid over top that offers excellent visibility in situations where a fence line is not available at the zone perimeter.



K-Line Shifting Hints

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To keep the final sprinkler (pod closest to the tow vehicle during shifting) from spraying the operator during shifting, use a clothes pin to prevent sprinkler movement, or place a coffee can (or rag) over the sprinkler to stifle the spray. Remove after the K-Line has been shifted.

Always position the tow vehicle 6 - 8' from the K-Line to be shifted on the dry (unirrigated) side of the K-Line - SEE page **8-9**. This will prevent "double loops" in the Feed Line and reduce chances that the tubing will get kinked. Mark the ends of the zone with large different colored markers or flags to help position your lines properly.

The first sprinkler/pod may be out of line with the rest of the sprinklers/pods if you have not positioned the last pod (the sprinkler/pod furthest from mid-zone) approximately 30' from the edge of the zone, OR if the Feed Line needs to be repositioned (as after moving the K-Line to the Set 3 or Set 7 positions – see above, Repositioning the Feed Line, for more details).

Shifting K-Line in hot weather without water running through the tubing increases the chance of kinking. EITHER shift the line while irrigating, OR shift (without water running) in the early morning or early evening when the tubing is cool.

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Tips & Tricks



False Casting

K-Line offers versatility unparalleled by other large irrigation systems. In odd or irregularly shaped fields, in pivot corners, or fields where there is a large continuous obstruction, you may have a "Set" or "Sets" that do not receive irrigation. In these situations you perform a K-Line "False Cast."

A "False Cast" is when you move the K-Line into a Set momentarily in order to gain a better position to maneuver into another Set.

As illustrated, we have irrigated Sets 1 through Set 6, however, the area that would normally be Set 7 is almost completely obstructed by trees and will not be irrigated.

The K-Line must move upfield in order to come back into the last dry down field position approximately 50' over to the right.



In this situation, we shift the K-Line back upfield into the Set 5 area just as if we were going to irrigate it - this is our "False Cast". IMMEDIATELY reposition the tow vehicle 6 - 8' from the K-Line, facing down zone, and move into the last set.

A False Cast almost always requires that the Feed Line and start of the K-Line be repositioned (see "Repositioning the Feed Line" on page 9).

The False Cast maneuver is also useful in the process of repositioning a K-Line to another area of the field (i.e., during initial installation when moving the K-Line from the layout area to the initial irrigation position).

K-Line Troubleshooting Guide

Symptom	Possible Cause / Solution
Partial or poor distribution from sprinkler	 Plugged nozzle - remove nozzle, check for obstruction. Obstruction in tubing - remove Tow Cap and flush line Improper pump pressure - check pump Damaged tubing leaking water - make square cuts to remove the damage and splice the line together by installing a Straight Coupling as described on Page 6, STEP 11C Saddle improperly mounted on tubing - remove and mount according to Pages 4 and 5, STEP 8
Pods rolling over during shifting	 Towing vehicle is too far from K-Line - keep 6 - 8' from the pod line while shifting
Connectors coming loose	 Improper tightening of the K-Line connectors - cut off and discard 3" of old scarred tubing when repairing (make sure that you have a square cut), then use pipe wrenches to more firmly tighten the connectors - see Page 6, STEP 10A. If this fails, replace fitting with a new fitting with sharp edges.
Water Stream hits the inside of the pod	 Tapping saddle is improperly tightened down - reposition tapping saddle and tighten down evenly, see Pages 4 and 5, STEP 8
Feed Line loop gets too tight	 Feed Line needs to be repositioned - see Page 9, "Repositioning the Feed Line" Feed Line is too short - add more tubing or narrow the width of the irrigated area
K.PIPE [®] tubing gets kinked	 Failure to reposition Feed Line – see Page 9, "Repositioning the Feed Line" Shifting the K-Line without water running when temperatures are hot - -straighten the kinked K-Line tubing and use a rubber mallet to lightly pound the tubing back into shape

End of Season

Unhook the Feed Line and K-Line from the riser and shift it to the side of the field. Setting the K-Line on an incline, and the action of shifting the K-Line itself, will remove most of the water from the K-Line. K-Line tubing will also stretch slightly to withstand some freezing. Open all riser and drain valves to drain the system and cover any open risers or tubing ends (cam dust caps and plugs are available) to prevent small animals from nesting inside.

Upon using your K-Line system in the following season, if a significant amount of grass has grown up and entangled the K-Line, be sure to manually loosen the pods from the grip of the forage before shifting your K-Line system.

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