

“Sustaining farms to sustain the world”

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of the K-Line Bulletin!

K-Line Greetings to our new Bulletin subscribers, and a warm welcome back to our loyal readers. With less than a month left of the working year, this will be our last Bulletin for 2017 – we hope you enjoy your read!

We are well aware that with readers in both northern and southern hemispheres, Spring isn't in the air everywhere. As I pen this note, the K-Lineites in North America would be just getting over their Thanksgiving dinners, and there's probably a temperature difference of about 30°C (or 86°F)! We include a section in every Bulletin on K-Line Ag in North America, so flip to page 6 for an update on this.

In Australia, Winter has well receded into the distance now. It was a long, cold, dry winter with record frosts, and most cropping districts welcomed a run of late Spring rain events.

Although it came too late for a majority of cropping areas in Australia, those in Southern and Eastern areas found it a life-saver.

We are very thankful for those do-or-die farming families who come through a year like this, ready and willing to go again next year. Without that hardy spirited attitude, the Australian population would not be able to enjoy such a consistent and affordable food supply.

The team at K-Line Ag have enjoyed another busy season, shipping a large proportion of our winter production into the northern hemisphere export markets. We are now working hard out to meet the demand for the coming tillage season.

The Australian tillage season has had an excellent start, largely due to the success most farmers have found with introducing strategic tillage back into their farming practices. In this, the K-Line Ag Speedtiller® has been the shining light, due to its unsurpassed ability to incorporate residues, lime and gypsum, effectively killing those chemical resistant weeds and leaving paddocks crop ready.

With the responsibility of some extensive early summer rain events, we will be all looking forward to another strong and positive year!

Being our last issue of the year, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all our customers, dealers and stakeholders for your support throughout the year. Thank you for entrusting your business in our hands. It has been an absolute pleasure serving you, and we look forward to doing so for years to come.

The Editor

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A \$5000 TRAVEL VOUCHER!

With holiday season just around the corner, now is your chance to enter the draw to win 1 of 2 travel vouchers worth \$5000... Just imagine the possibilities!

Offer applies to all orders over \$15,000 ex GST – get your order in prior to 21st December to qualify for the draw!



*Full list of terms and conditions available online at www.k-line.net.au/special-promotions/

FIELD DAY SEASON UPDATE

In the last Bulletin we mentioned all the field days we were heading to – here are a few snapshots from the Aussie field day season...

DOWERIN FIELD DAYS 30-31 AUG

Dowerin field days were a great success. We received a lot of interest in the 9.5m Speedtiller Powerflex we had on display, obtaining strong leads which resulted in some good sales. Thanks to the Kojonup Ag Supplies and Coote Motors teams for their support!



NEWDEGATE MACHINERY FIELD DAYS 6-7 SEPT

Following on from the success at Dowerin Field Days, Newdegate was a strong field day as well. With our 9.5m Powerflex on display again, the K-Line Ag team were kept on their toes with farmers showing great interest in this machine.

HENTY MACHINERY FIELD DAYS 19-21 SEPT



The K-Line Ag range was on display at the Cadmac Machinery site at Henty again this year. Considering how the Spring was shaping up, farmers still had a positive attitude

which was good to see. We gained a number of good leads from our display range, showing off a 9.5m Powerflex, 3m Linkage and a 14 Reel Delta Hay Rake.



YORKE PENINSULA FIELD DAYS 26-28 SEPT

With the possibility of an excellent season in the area, farmers were impressed by our 12.5m Powerflex and 40' Trashcutter machines. We received some excellent comments from farmers about our machines which lead to some very strong opportunities.



Reade family of Curramulka SA, proud owners of a 12.5m Powerflex

ELMORE FIELD DAYS 3-5 OCT

At Elmore this year, K-Line was represented by the Echuca CIH team with a 12.5m Powerflex, 4m Trackattack and a Delta Hay Rake on display. Whilst first the day started slowly, momentum gathered over the remaining 2 days. Some good interest was generated by the Trackattack®, our wheel track renovator.





AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FIELD DAYS 26-28 OCT

With the help of the Cowra and Forbes Machinery Centre team, we were able to have our largest display of machines ever at the event. With a 6m Trailing, 4m Universal, 3m Linkage and a 16 Reel Delta HayPro there, we were able to grab a lot of attention from the passing farmers. We got reports back from the Cowra and Forbes Machinery teams stating that this was their best field days yet for K-Line Ag enquiries and quotes. Thanks guys!



MIXING THE CAKE: STRATEGIC CULTIVATION, A SOLUTION TO NUTRIENT STRATIFICATION

Just like an unmixed chocolate cake would leave the hopeful taster wondering why they bothered, a crop sown into stratified soil conditions will leave the producer in a similar dissatisfied state.

We are very thankful to Peter Watt, Senior Regional Agronomist at Elders Cowra, for sharing his wealth of agricultural knowledge and experience with us at our Reseller Conference last month. Read on for a summary of the key points we covered in this session.

1. If it's worth liming, it's worth liming well.

Producers generally lime every 8-10 years, so it is very important to make that incorporation work to its utmost benefit. Liming is a significant expense which gives huge advantage when mixed to an adequate depth (top 10cm soil layer). However when lime is only shallowly incorporated, a practice which has become more and more common with the implementation of zero or no-till systems, it can often result in surface-concentrated lime, and the PH level of the soil 'downstairs' becomes severely limiting.

2. It's what's downstairs that counts

A sandwich layer of acidic soil is becoming a common obstacle in many areas of south eastern Australia, due to

this shallow liming issue. And clearly, working in areas with this acidic subsoil layer can be severely limiting to crop yield, especially if the crop is not particularly acid-tolerant.

Although the simple act of growing a plant actually neutralises the surface soil (it pulls magnesium from deep in the soil and drops it on the surface), this means that although the surface may improve, the deeper layers of soil can in fact acidify, resulting in this sandwich layer. Therefore although a soil test in the top layer of soil may look great, soil tests needs to be done to depth (ideally 50cm according to the GRDC paper on Deep Incorporation of Lime) to determine the state of the soil below.

For example, in highly acidic soil levels of ph 4.2, the saturation of minerals like aluminium and manganese is toxic to the plant, but it also limits to access to phosphorous and other essential nutrients. So a plant will grow in the top layer of soil, and when its roots strike the hostile acidic layer of subsoil, they will pull back. This compromises the cell division that occurs at the end of the roots, which is essential for the plant to obtain water and nutrients.

Deep root structure is hugely beneficial to a plant. Not only is there a wealth of nutrients, it also improves drought tolerance and resistance. So it is imperative to get the root structure down into the subsoil to utilize the full potential of the soil resource, but in order to do that, the soil levels need to be right. Once the subsurface acidity layer is fixed, the crop roots have unrestricted access to soil and can grow to their maximum potential.

Mixing the cake is crucial. The lime that neutralises these acidic soils needs to be mixed to depth. It moves 0.5-1cm every year through chemical equilibrium, but the best way



to get it down into the soil is to 'mix the cake, and mix it to depth'

3. Stratification of Nutrients

Lime isn't the only thing that needs mixing. Nutrient stratification is a common occurrence which can reduce the ability of crops to access soil nutrients, significantly reducing crop yield. Stratification of nutrients occurs naturally in all cropping systems, but is accentuated in no-till systems.

Mobile nutrients such as nitrogen and sulfur can move deeper into the soil profile, increasing stratification and

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creating nutrient deficiencies in the topsoil if they move past the rooting zone. Conversely, immobile nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium can be concentrated – or stratified – in the top 10 to 15 centimetres of soil.

Farming systems can exacerbate nutrient stratification. For example, reduced tillage prevents soil mixing, making banded nutrients even more distinct, either horizontally in drill rows or by vertical concentration in surface or subsurface layers.

Read GRDC article on Understanding nutrient stratification to guide crop management

Read SANTFA article on Nutrient Stratification in no-till systems

4. Embrace the Steel

Locally and in most of southern NSW and south-eastern Australia, zero-tillage and reduced tillage techniques have been adopted significantly over the last 2-3 decades. Although this in itself has been wonderful for soil preservation, nutrient use and water efficiency, there is a consequence to it which we need to be aware of.

We have considerably reduced cultivation over the last 20-30 years for very good reasons, but strategically, we need to 'embrace the steel again where it is appropriate', to ameliorate some of these issues.

MECHANICAL REMEDIES FOR NON-WETTING SOILS

Non-wetting or hydrophobic soils are an increasing issue throughout districts in WA and SA, posing a conundrum for farmers. To grow crops, simple things are needed: a matrix, some moisture, sunlight. But what to do when the seemingly simple pieces of the farming equation repel one another? It's a question that has "absorbed" both farmers and scientists for nearly 100 years.



Traditional methods for combating non-wetting soils in Western Australia and South Australia have been mechanical in nature. These efforts were led by the mouldboard plough, which provides the deep penetration needed to find and incorporate more clay-based soils into the non-wetting

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PHOTO OF THE SEASON



Impressive! Check out the drone footage of two 40' Speedtillers working in Stripped Canola in Langdon, ND
View video footage online at <http://www.k-line.net.au/video/#Speedtiller-USA>

Respect



profile. However, utilising a mouldboard plough comes with distinct disadvantages, particularly with the susceptibility of fine sandy soils to wind erosion and the increased tendency to lose surface moisture due to incomplete soil mixing and decreased organic matter integration.

More recent implement developments have attempted to address the shortcomings of mouldboard ploughing as a mechanical solution for non-wetting soils. Rotary spaders have assisted with the issue of soil mixing, but have been less successful at addressing the other concerns with erosion controls and residue incorporation. Without solving these companion issues, farmers have found their soils to be less hydrophobic post-spading, but more moveable and less rich, due to the absence of residues within the matrix.

Following spaders with additional passes utilising other tillage pieces has some benefit, but creates an entirely new set of challenges. Additional passages mean longer seedbed preparation times, decreased productivity, and increased instances of compaction. This last is of particular

combined soil end product addresses both the primary and secondary issues of non-wetting soil remedies.

Non-wetting soils are a matter of fact, and a force of nature. But with the mechanical implements obtainable in the agricultural market today, there are remedies available that address the issue without creating new issues.



MEET AN EMPLOYEE!

NEIL SMITH

ASSEMBLY LEADING HAND

Neil is the assembly leading hand here at K-Line, taking charge of the assembly team to ensure our machines are assembled and out the door!

What is the most interesting part of your job?

The different challenges everyday

Describe your ideal weekend.

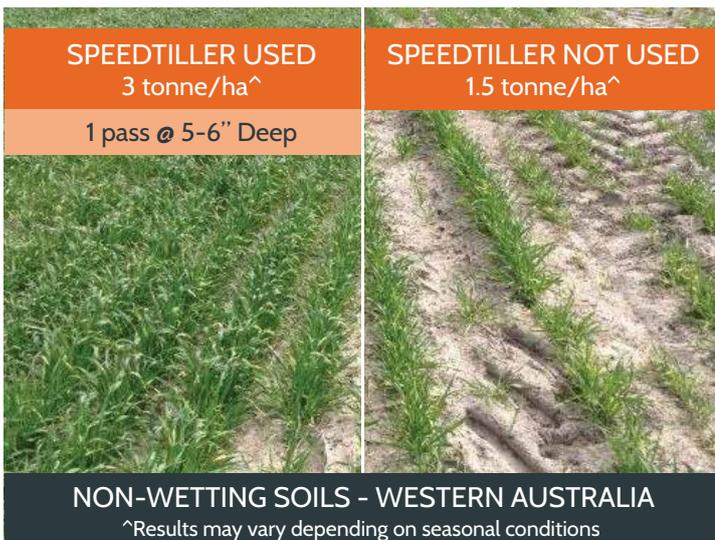
Time away with the family

What do you most like to do to unwind?

Practice Guitar

What is the first thing you do when you wake up/ start your day?

Make a cup of tea



concern, as recently worked soils are disturbed more deeply into the subsoil profile and thus more susceptible to static and vibratory compaction at deeper levels.

New advancements in tillage technology have led to multi-function tillage implements that can help farmers solve both the primary non-wetting soils complaint and the secondary concerns about residues, erosion and compaction. Implements like the K-Line Ag Speedtiller® perform multiple mechanical processes on the soil in a single pass, eliminating the concern of secondary-pass subsoil compaction. An initial row of mounted lateral discs dig deeply into the soil, pulling more clay-based soils to the top for integration. Then finishing discs and roller chop and incorporate residues with a smooth finish, providing both a prepped seedbed and a well-integrated soil stratum of hydrophobic and clay soils with interspersed organic residues. When required working depths are 6-7", this

TEAM UPDATE

K-Line Ag would like to welcome a number of new employees who have joined the team since the last issue of the Bulletin: Hooman, Joseph, Paul and Ingrid – we're glad to have you on board!

NOW HIRING

We are currently seeking a hardworking and experienced Assembly Process Worker who is willing to join our proactive team.

We're also seeking 1st Class Welders, Fabricators and/or Boilermakers for an immediate start.

K-Line Ag's Core Values are: Innovation, Care, Respect, Integrity & Trust - if you think you fit these values and have the skillset for the job, apply now!

Visit the Careers page on our website:

<http://www.k-line.net.au/careers/>

NORTH AMERICAN UPDATE

The Season in North America is coming to a close as old man winter blows his cold blast south. Many farmers in the mid-west are working hard to finish up the last of the corn and beans before the snow is here to stay. Winter has arrived in Canada, North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, with some areas getting temperatures below 0°F (-17°C) and getting up to 6 inches of snow. Harvest and tillage demonstrations are closing off in southern Minnesota, as the freezing weather heads south. Corn Harvest is still in full swing in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri with tillage following right behind.



The eastern states have had some large dumps of rain but the weather is staying warm. Demos have paused for the moment but there is still a chance to get more tillage done while the weather stays nice so for anyone needing a demo, make sure you get in touch!

ENTER K-LINE TRASHCUTTER™, TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET!

Now available in North America, our Trashcutter™ is a minimum to no-till solution for sizing residues.

The K-Line Ag Trashcutter™ simply cuts & drops, leaving stubble & residue evenly distributed over the ground's surface. This is ideal for zero-till farmers wanting to retain ground cover while sizing residue for ease of seeding.



We hit the soil for the first time in North Dakota in early October, introducing the Trashcutter to farmers and the NDSU Extension Research Center in Langdon, North



Scan this code to watch the video



Dakota. Onlookers were very impressed with how the Trashcutter™ performed, sizing residues without moving the soil.

After a successful trial demo, we moved on to Osabrock, North Dakota, where a local farmer used it to cut up cover crop. He was very happy with how it chopped and sized the green foliage.

DEMOING FLAT OUT BEFORE THE WINTER FREEZE-UP

Throughout October-November, we ran successful demos in North Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska.

The K-Line Ag Team headed on down to Bismarck, ND and ran the Speedtiller in corn. It went very well, with the farmer very impressed at the way the Speedtiller created a beautiful seedbed in one pass, on 120 bushel corn stocks.

At Edgerton MN, temperatures were around 28°F (-2°C) and we ran the Speedtiller on bean stubble and ripped corn ground. Our client is wanting to reducing ripping by running the Speedtiller on bean stubble, replacing some of their older equipment, and then running the Speedtiller on ripped corn ground in the spring.

Early November, we moved down to Brownsville, NE with a 31' Speedtiller Powerflex. Temperatures were around 46°F (7°C) so we enjoyed the warmer weather! The demo went very well; the Speedtiller stood out yet again, moving more dirt and doing an excellent job of mixing residues. With the weight of the Speedtiller, we were getting great penetration into the 260 bushel/acre corn stock residue.

NEW PREMISES: GRAFTON, NORTH DAKOTA

We have moved! October/November saw the K-Line team move from our premises in Cavalier to a newer, larger premises in Grafton, ND. A few of the Australian team headed over in October to USA to assist with the move. We managed to get our first load down before the snow started falling! This new facility is fitted with overhead cranes, for safe and efficient loading and assembly operations. It's also a lot larger, giving us more space to

Trust



store and assemble Speedtillers and any new machinery as it is introduced to the US market. Covering an area of 26,250 square feet, we now have plenty of yard space and plenty of room for expansion. We're very excited to see how it goes – here's to a successful future!



Day 1 – moving into the office at Grafton, ND



1 week later, snow has arrived, sidewalks are shovelled



Inside the office space and assembly plant, waiting to be filled with staff and speedtillers!



CHRISTMAS HOURS

The K-Line team would like to thank you for your support throughout 2017.

Closed: 5:00pm, Thursday 21st December 2017

Reopens: 8:00am, Wednesday 3rd January 2018

FAQ

Are your Speedtiller disc bearings greasable?

No, they are a sealed bearing unit complete with a 7 lip barrel seal and 2 Labyrinth seals to provide a mechanical barrier to dust and dirt (the most successful bearing system worldwide!)

What is the difference between a Delta V Rake & the new Delta Haypro?

The difference comes down to the reels that are used on the rake. The Delta V uses our standard rake reels, the HayPro Reel is a different design. It is a solid poly disc with short rubber mounted fingers on a larger diameter reel. The reel can be set above the ground level and tipped back on an angle, effectively giving gentle raking and limiting leaf loss, along with reducing hay contamination from off the ground. The hay windrow is left uniform and even, providing easy bailing.

What is the difference between a crumble roller & a spring roller?

A crumble roller is the most commonly sold roller on the Speedtiller range, it is extremely robust, ideal for most soil types, especially hard, dry soils with rock. It leaves an extremely uniform level finish.

A spring roller consists of curved leaf springs mounted on a solid pipe centre. These leaf springs flex in operation, releasing sticky clay based soils from off the roller. This is especially useful in working clay soils with moisture, however the spring roller is not ideal in rocky soil conditions.



“What did you take away from the meeting?”



WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

In Australia...

We grow medic for our sheep enterprise and have been looking for a way to be able to incorporate the stubble and leave a level field finish. After using our Speedtiller we were really excited with the job that it did. There looks as though there will be more benefits down the track from using this machine than we thought. We have been looking for a machine that would do a job like this for 25 years. Overall, a well-built machine that adds value and efficiency to our business.

Evan and Peter Kakoschke,
owners of a 2985T SpeedTiller

In North America...

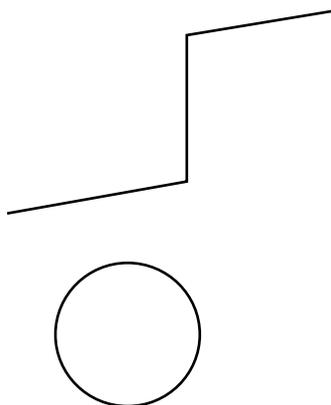
K-Line has been great to work with. We do not yet own a Speedtiller, but have demoed and rented them several times. I have always been impressed with how quickly the tiller shows up, and it's always in good working order... not surprising due to the impressive build quality of these machines. Setup has been simple and easy, due to the helpful field technicians. I love the amount of adjustability built into these machines, you can set it up for any soil type or conditions with simple common sense adjustments. Last fall we were unable to harvest 150 acres of corn due to wet conditions and snow. This spring that ground flooded and we finally harvested it in May. Being too wet to burn and too much residue to deal with, we called up K-Line. The next morning we had Speedtiller and worked it up. It did a beautiful job and we were able to plant only two days after we harvested! I credit the Speedtiller for giving us that crop of soybeans this year. Thanks K-Line!

Carl Symington, North Dakota

WINNER
of the Autumn Bulletin Competition.
Congratulations to Peter Taylor,
who won a K-Line goodie bag for his
find-a-word entry!

MR SQUIGGLE Spring 2017 Competition

It is time to put your drawing skills into action! Using the Squiggle below, come up with the most creative drawing to win the competition. The squiggle must be part of your drawing.



Name:

Email:

Phone: Age:

Postal Address:

Short description of your artwork:

Send back to K-Line by 20th December 2017.

The prize for the best and most creative drawing is a K-Line beach towel.

F: 02 6342 6913 E: marketing@k-line.net.au

Terms and Conditions for the Spring 2017 Competition are available on the News page of our website: www.k-line.net.au/news

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "Failure is success if we learn from it." - Malcolm Forbe



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