A lot of things have obviously changed since Doug and Bruce Cotton’s great-great grandfather moved to a 40-acre wooded farm near Kalkaska, Michigan, in 1913. However, a few things have also remained constant for those 96 years.

For one, the Cotton family has grown potatoes through all four generations of ownership. And Cotton family members have always been on the cutting edge of innovation and technology.

As an example, the family has been irrigating potatoes since 1948, when Glenn and Raymond Cotton bought a Chrysler war surplus engine and pump and installed it next to a man-made pond. That was the first year potatoes yielded over 300 hundredweight per acre — even if it was on new ground.

Thirty-three years later, in 1981, third-generation owner, Don Cotton, installed the first center-pivot irrigation system on the farm… not to mention one of the first in the county. Today, a total of 16 T-L center-pivot irrigation units are spread across approximately 1,000 acres of Elmaple Farm, which was named for the elm and maple trees on the property.

In addition to around 200 acres of potatoes, which are still grown under irrigation, the farm also produces approximately 390 acres of green beans, 250 to 275 acres of wheat and 90 to 100 acres of corn.

“I looked at several center-pivot...”
machines in central Michigan, and even traveled back to central Nebraska to visit some of the factories, before making a decision,” Don says. “Even before I toured the T-L plant, though, I was leaning toward the hydraulically driven system.

“The way I figure, hydraulic oil is a lot easier and safer to manage than 440 volts of electricity,” he quips. “Besides, there are still some areas around here that aren’t very accessible to power lines.

“My theory was that if I didn’t like it, I could always go to a different brand on the next one,” he adds. “Obviously, I’ve been pleased; because we’ve bought 15 more since then.”

Although the most recently installed T-L unit is powered by a three-phase electric motor, the majority of the pivots are driven by four diesel power units equipped with quick couplers that are moved between pivots. It helps, too, having all units within three miles of the farm.

According to Doug Cotton, who with his brother, Bruce, represents the fourth generation of the Cotton family to manage the farm, most of the units on the farm are at least 13 years old.

“After Dad put in the first unit in ’81, we added 13 more over the next 15 years,” he says. “The most recent addition was a unit we bought in 2008. One is a towable unit and the rest cover anywhere from 20 acres to 160 acres each.”

“I think we’re up to 55 pivots in this county,” Don adds. “And it seems like the guys with electric units are always replacing micro-switches and motors. Yet, we probably haven’t had more than two service calls over that whole 28-year span. About all we’ve had to replace were tires.”

“With our sandy soils, we couldn’t grow green beans if it weren’t for the center-pivot units,” says Bruce Cotton, noting that the family added beans to the mix in 1977. “We have to get water on them right away if we hope to have any crop at all.”

Of course, the potatoes need their share of water, as well. On average, they need at least an inch a week, according to Bruce, who manages the warehouse and potato packing operation, while Doug is in charge of machinery and the shop.

“Wheat is usually the first thing we start watering in mid May,” Bruce relates. “Then, around June 10, we start irrigating the potatoes, followed by green beans around June 15 to get them up and out of the ground.”

The diverse crop mix not only spreads the irrigation schedule, but it also allows the Cottons to manage crop rotation.

“We usually go from potatoes to wheat then beans or corn,” Bruce continues. “When we can stretch out potatoes to four or five years on a field, we do it. The longer we leave potatoes out, the better for disease prevention.”

While beans are harvested by the packing company — which also provides the seed and designates the variety — potatoes are stored and bagged in the family’s own warehouse and facilities before being shipped to market in five-, 10- and 50-pound bags.

“The T-L pivots have certainly made it a lot easier and allowed the boys to farm more acres,” says Don, who is now retired and helps only when needed. “Back when we were using the old style of irrigation, I figure I walked 20 miles a day through mud and wet potato vines.

“That’s why I’ve got webbed feet today,” he concludes with a grin.

Doug and Bruce Cotton, fourth-generation managers of Elmaple Farms in Kalkaska, Michigan (left and center), carry on a preference for T-L center pivot units that began when their father, Don Cotton (right) bought the first T-L unit in 1981.

Bruce and Doug Cotton get ready to plant green beans on approximately 375 acres of the farm’s 1,120 acres, which consists of nearly 1,000 acres of beans, corn, wheat and potatoes and 140 acres of timber.

The Cottons carry on a preference for T-L center pivot units that began when their father, Don Cotton (right) bought the first T-L unit in 1981. The diverse crop mix not only spreads the irrigation schedule, but it also allows the Cottons to manage crop rotation.

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Are you tired of dealing with the hassles of irrigating with electrically powered pivot irrigation systems? Microswitches, expensive unexpected repairs, high maintenance costs, safety concerns...the list goes on.

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Call your local T-L dealer or T-L Irrigation Co. at 1-800-330-4264 today!
It pays to irrigate.

Averaged 264 bushels an acre, topped out at 305.9 bushels an acre!
Joel Armistead isn’t spoofing either. He has lots and lots of proof that a center-pivot irrigation system can have just as much value to a farmer east of the Mississippi River as one further west and just wait until he has some more experience under his belt.

While Armistead couldn’t foresee that the 2008 growing season would be as hot and dry as the previous year, it was a good thing that he decided not to take chances.

By corn planting time on his Adairville, Kentucky, farm, a T-L center-pivot on a ten-year lease was installed to provide dependable moisture on 125 acres. This was to be his first experience with irrigation.

Another impressive statistic is that an irrigated acre netted him $544.33 more profit per acre than the dryland. For the 125 acres, that is $68,041.25 more total profit!

His new T-L allowed Armistead to gain some managerial tweaks that otherwise wouldn’t have been possible, as well.

First, he was able to save the $10 to $12 an acre cost for an airplane to apply insecticide and fungicide by injecting them through his pivot system instead.

Second, he also made three eight-gallon applications of liquid nitrogen mixed in the irrigation water—fertigation. Incidentally, at 255 units an acre, his nitrogen application in the circle was less than a pound per bushel harvested.

Armistead initially had decided on an electrically powered center-pivot sprinkler system as his solution to coping with a drought year. However, as he explains, “It’s kind of scary to think of water and electricity being together. I’d also talked to electric system users who told me about the troubles a thunderstorm can cause.

“So, I explored on the Internet to see if there was a system not run by electricity. I found the T-L site, and read all the customer interviews.”

“Then,” he adds, “the final touch was when I found there was a T-L dealer within 20 miles of me. He, by the way, has really helped me in my first year of irrigating.”

Armistead says he’s much more familiar with hydraulics than high voltage electricity. For example, when he raises up the side shield of his combine he views a multitude of hydraulic lines, all operating at much higher pressures than his T-L sprinkler.

“But, what really caught my eye was seeing that his T-Ls didn’t need electric motors out there on each wheel unit,” he continues.

“It looked like the T-Ls also had their wheel spaced for more stability. Their operation is simple when using all the basic controls. To me, a T-L is the safest and simplest center-pivot available,” Armistead says.

“I’m happy with my T-L—and I’ve already ordered a second T-L center-pivot for next summer!”

The bottom line? Actually, there are several, all most emphatically in black ink.

From mid-June to the last of August his T-L racked up 448 hours of operation, sometimes applying 3/4-inch each time around, but most circles were set at 3/10-inch to lessen water run-off from the rolling portion of the field. Incidentally, due to a power pole’s location, Armistead’s unit has to be reversed rather than completing a full circle.

The bottom line, by any measure, is written in black ink.

Armistead’s entire T-L irrigated circle averaged 264 bushels of corn an acre. His certified acreage entry for the National Corn Growing contest went through his combine at a 305.9 bushels an acre rate.

How outstanding a yield this was and how irrigation came through for him is illustrated by the 80 bushels an acre the dryland corn in the same field averaged previously.

His top dryland yield from a nearby bottomland field averaged 140 bushels an acre. Hurt by abnormally hot and dry weather, his overall dryland corn average was a bare 113 bushels an acre in 2008.

The irrigated circle averaged 151 bushels per acre more than the dryland corn. That’s impressive!

Joel realized he was going to develop his own corn irrigation guidelines, so he varied the planting of six different populations from 26,000 to 42,000 plants an acre. His best yield came from a 35,000 plant population.

He also planted several varieties to learn which made the most efficient usage of irrigation water. The corn variety that looked the best had the remnant of a hurricane hit the field, causing substantial wind damage or his yields might have been even higher.

Not knowing if he was applying enough water worried Armistead, so he decided to install a pair of soil potentiometers, one 18 inches long and one 36 inches long, in rolling red clay and darker bottomland. They kept him informed of his crop’s water needs. This proved to be a sound investment, he says.

For complete facts and figures, plus maps, go this Internet site: http://www.tuckaseeirrigation.com/2008%20CORN%20IRRIGATION%20201N%20KENTUCKY.html.

The T-L Difference. >>

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Neither Tommy Harrison nor Micke Bowen, close friends since boyhood, had to think too long to figure out how they would earn their livings. Micke’s dad, a farmer and gin owner, passed away when his son was just a teenager, and the youngster had no choice but to fill his late father’s shoes and keep the family business going. Early on, he developed the skill of making sound business decisions, and as his friend Tommy says, “Micke has never looked back.”

In 1973, when Tommy was just a ninth grader, his dad, a third generation farmer in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, located in the northeast corner of the state, gave him a one and a half acre cotton patch and told him that he would be responsible for planting it, tending it during the growing season, harvesting it, and selling it. The market was dismal that year, languishing in the 20- to 30-cent range, and when it reached 33 cents, his dad, certain there was little likelihood the price would go higher, booked his cotton crop. Tommy took a chance and held out for a higher price.

Indeed, the price did take a dramatic upswing. “I booked my cotton at 70 cents,” Tommy says, “and ended up with $1100 in the bank. I couldn’t believe how rich I was. Dad worried that I might do what most youngsters would do and spend the money unwisely, so he warned me that there would be no ‘furnish’ for next year’s crop out of his pocket. From the ninth grade on, he never gave me a cent. That was an extremely valuable lesson that has served me well ever since. Then, when I was 17 years old, I went to the bank, borrowed enough money to buy 86 acres and one tractor, and began my farming career. I’ve never wanted to do anything else.”

These two lifelong friends became
partners 20 years ago and are now co-
owners of BHF and Company headqua-
tered about 10 miles south of Pontotoc, Mississippi. They are steadily expanding
their company by using the ability they
learned as boys and have constantly
improved over the years — the ability to
make sound business decisions.

Today, their combined farmland totals
about 4,000 acres, planted annually to
cotton, corn, and soybeans. BHF also
owns and operates an agricultural fly-
ing service and an earth moving/exca-
vating/land-forming operation. The latter
serves residential, commercial and agri-
cultural needs over a wide area of north
Mississippi.

Tommy and Micke farm in an area that
historically receives about 55 inches of
rainfall per year, more than enough for
the crops they grow to produce profitable
yields. But, as is the case in most farm-
ing regions, the two men have learned
that the years when rainfall is sufficient
and comes at optimal times during the
growing season are few and far between.
And, in fact, much of the Southeast is now
struggling with the worst rainfall deficit on
record.

"The year 2006 was one of the worst
dry years we’ve ever experienced in this
area, so Micke and I began giving seri-
ous thought to irrigating what land we
could, either with center pivots or by land
forming," Tommy says. "There is virtually
no irrigation in this area, mostly because
the land is rolling, and fields, mostly in
the bottoms where the soil is richer and
better suited for farming, are generally
small — averaging around 20 acres in
size. Between us, we have about 175
fields, and adequate subterranean water
for irrigating is about 1,700 feet beneath
the surface."

Good businessmen turn problems
into opportunities, and that is exactly
what Harrison and Bowen did. Obviously,
pumping water from 1,700 feet below the
surface was not feasible, even if they
could get the required permits, so they
looked elsewhere for water to supply
irrigation.

"I knew right away that I’d made a
sound business decision when I invested
in the T-L system."

After extensive study of topographical
maps, they determined where creeks and
prominent watersheds were, and used
their own earth-moving equipment to
build dams that would connect hills, thus
enclosing lakes to serve as reservoirs.

By removing a few trees to combine
several small fields, and building an
18-acre lake that averages 9 feet in depth,
Harrison realized that he could use a cen-
ter pivot to water about 130 acres.

"Even though center pivot irrigation is
almost non-existent in this area, after the
terrible drought of 2006 I was determined
to do whatever I could, within reason, to
insure that I could water my crops when
Mother Nature wouldn’t," Harrison said.
"So, I decided to invest in my first center
pivot."

Harrison admits that he is not much of
an electrician and, as he says, "I don’t
want to do much more than put batteries
in a flashlight." Therefore, he had misgiv-
ings from the get-go about electrically
operated pivot systems.

But, like most farmers, he is quite
familiar with hydraulics. When someone
mentioned that center pivots manufac-
tured by the T—L Irrigation Company are
hydraulically operated and not dependent
on electricity, he decided to purchase a
quarter-mile system to water the 130-acre
field with a power unit pumping from the
lake to the pivot via an eight-inch pipe
underground about four feet.

In 2007, Harrison grew his best corn
crop ever, harvesting an average 170
bushels per acre, including the acreage
covered by the T-L center pivot.

"I knew right away that I’d made a
sound business decision when I invested
in the T-L System," he says. "First of all, it
is simple to operate — user friendly, I call
it. The control panel is so easy to under-
stand that any of my employees can set
it for the desired application and get it
going. And, more importantly, because
it is not powered by electricity, I don’t
worry about the possibility of a serious
accident. Also, I’ve noticed that the pivot
is designed to remain aligned throughout
a rotation and its continuous movement
provides the same amount of water all the
way around, no over- or under-watering
some areas."

In 2007, Harrison’s corn crop benefited
from timely rains, and the pivot made only
4.5 circles, but, as he says, it ran virtually
trouble free. T-L technicians resolved one
minor problem quickly, resulting in only a
few hours’ downtime.

"Micke and I have decided to steadily
expand our irrigation capability," Tommy
says, "and hope to be able to water about
600 acres next year. Wherever possible,
we will install T-L center pivots. These
systems are durable, dependable, and
efficient. I would definitely recommend
the T-L center pivot irrigation system to
other producers. For Micke and me, invest-
ing in T-L was a sound business decision."

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The T-L Difference. >>

November 2009
“I imagine they’ll go another
Two big changes in his family’s water management practices come quite readily to Brad Klann’s mind.

His primary crop on 840 acres near Madras, Oregon, is Kentucky Bluegrass seed, rotated with hybrid carrot seed and northern spring wheat, with five years for the grass.

First, in 1970, after years of mostly flood irrigation, his father began putting in a few wheel-lines on the farm, which was then 360 acres in size.

Second, in 1978 his father visited a T-L dealer who thought, “T-Ls were the cat’s meow,” Klann remembers. On the other hand, the local Soil Conservation Service technician warned his father that center-pivots would compact and ruin the soil.

Regardless of the advice, his father bought two T-Ls, which were among the first center-pivots in the area. Well, who was right, the dealer or the SCS?

“At the time we were having problems with salts being pushed up to the center of the beds,” Klann says. “The salt would kill out the Bluegrass in the bed centers and we couldn’t even get onion seed to sprout.”

“But, once we started using those T-Ls, the irrigation water started pushing those salts back down and we began getting some pretty good crops. Now those two center-pivots are 31 years old—and I imagine they’ll go another 30-some years.”

Since then, two more T-Ls have been installed as the farm expanded and Brad’s son, Seth, just returned to the farm after college graduation.

There was an initial problem that was easily solved, though. Condensation of water in the original 90-weight oil during the winter could develop in the hubs of these first units that would corrode the needle bearings. However, once that oil was replaced with double-ought grease, Klann has not experienced a single problem.

“All we’ve done is to put on new sprinklers every seven or eight years due to sediment wearing out the nozzles, change tires every dozen or so years, and infrequently change a seal in an orbit motor due to age” he points out.

“The original two sprinklers are still going fine, and probably will for a long time yet.”

He also likes that his T-Ls don’t have high voltage electricity going out to the end towers and all the electric motors that electrically powered systems have. The continuous movement of a T-L doesn’t dig wheel ruts as deeply as the stop-and-go electrics he’s noticed in other fields, either.

Klann’s water comes via a canal from spring-fed reservoirs in the Cascade mountains, 85 miles away. He generally applies the full two-and-a-quarter acre feet of water annually allowed.

Although an inch-and-a-half of water each revolution is his usual application, he says operating a center-pivot is nice since he can adjust this watering rate down to a quarter-inch or half-inch as needed.

“Using a center-pivot doesn’t halve our water use compared to the other forms of irrigation used around here, but we certainly use a lot less water,” Klann comments.

“However, in a short water year, if we receive only one-and-three-quarters or two acre feet of water, we can still plant 100 percent of our farm. Meanwhile irri-ators using other methods may be able to plant only 75 percent of their land.”

Another benefit of running a center-pivot is the ease of getting a newly-planted crop established underneath one, he says. This is especially noticeable in minimizing “wind skip” on blustery days. Crop uniformity is improved, too.

“A center-pivot sprinkler is also a big labor savings tool. For the last seven years I’ve farmed this 840 acres with just one hired man,” Klann reports. “If there were flood irrigation or wheel-lines to handle, I probably would have had to hire two more people.

“When you figure it out over 30 years, a center-pivot is pretty economical. Just the labor savings in a couple of years would make a good down payment on a system or maybe pay it off,” he adds.

Increasing field size to become more efficient is another advantage provided by center-pivots, he thinks. Most flood irrigated fields in the area are limited to just ten to 20 acres.

Klann’s bottom line: “What T-L means to us is water efficiency, low maintenance cost, labor savings—and profitability!” •
“T-Ls are super pivots.”
In 2003, Mick Marffy left his farm in Zimbabwe and started anew. He set up a new farm “from scratch” in an equatorial Zambian forest.

His description of the land is; “It looked like something out of Disney’s ‘The Jungle Book’.” He was, in essence, pioneering. He had to clear land, put up buildings, and, at first, work without any electricity.

Tobacco, a summer crop, was being grown in the area, which was planted in late November or early December.

Crop quality was excellent, but yields were poor because the tobacco didn’t develop a large enough root system before the annual summer rains began. Local rainfall can total up to three feet at times!

What he needed, Marffy believed, was preliminary irrigation to get the tobacco established with a good root system well before the rains began to fall.

Great logic, yet Marffy had a skeptical bank manager ask, “Well, why do you need a center-pivot since it rains so much every summer?” His response was, “It’s for that very reason! We have to beat the season otherwise the rain is a hazard to root development and my crop!”

The upshot is that Marffy was convinced. Step 1: He installed a T-L pivot system that could cover 45 hectares (111 acres). Step 2: Since he’d made sure his T-L center-pivot was towable, he planned to cover three circles of tobacco for a total of 135 hectares (334 acres).

His complete towing process with the hydrostatic T-L requires only 1.5 to 2.5 hours, depending on the distance to cover between fields, compared to significantly more time and work with an electrically powered towable pivot he owned.

He explains that the most difficult aspect of growing tobacco in the area is the availability of curing facilities, which are located in expensive-to-build tunnels. To avoid this problem, he tries to extend his crop’s growing season as long as possible.

Here’s where being able to shift his T-L to different fields definitely adds to his profit potential. For example, he plants his first circle the first of September and waters it until the crop is well established. The second circle operates in mid-October and also waters until the roots are developed properly. The third circle’s crop is planted in mid-November, and is irrigated in like fashion.

Thus, all three circles have root systems able to handle the rains when they arrive and since the curing season is greatly extended, there’s adequate storage capacity available at any time.

That’s not all his T-L has allowed Marffy to do; during their dry winters he seeds 45 hectares of winter wheat that now receives irrigation throughout its growing season.

“Yes,” he points out, “I am getting full mileage from my T-L center-pivot—and double the income!”

Although quick and easy irrigation system relocation was important to Marffy, he says he was first attracted to the T-L system due to its hydraulically powered design.

“Another reason was that, in this neck of the woods, we have an erratic power supply. The voltage sometimes isn’t quite what you’d want,” he explains.

“The T-L’s one big motor at the pivot point seems to handle the power a lot better than if it had one of those little motors on each tower as electric pivots do. The possibility of something going wrong due to so many contacts is just too great.

“Also, I must say that although I didn’t think about it at the time, the 480 volts carried in an electrical system is worrisome. I like the idea of having much fewer ways of getting electrocuted.”

Marffy comments that his T-L’s continuously moving operation, “Just makes a whole heap of sense to me. When I’m putting on chemicals or fertilizers through the pivot I’m getting a much more even spread. With a high value, sensitive crop like tobacco, there’s a delicate balance between too much or too little nitrogen.”

His T-L pays off for him in even more ways, he emphasizes. Land preparation now doesn’t require larger tractors or equipment since he can achieve proper moisture content in the soil that allows easier working. This, of course, has reduced his investment costs and fuel usage.

Area tradition is being broken both by Marffy and his brother, who also runs a T-L on his farm adjacent to Mick’s. The management of tobacco had typically been limited to a maximum of 50 hectares (124 acres) per man. But, thanks to his T-Ls and how he utilizes them, Marffy is handling almost 2.5 times as much tobacco with the help of one assistant. Plus, he has the income from the 45 hectares of wheat grown during the dry season, as mentioned previously.

“The reason I can do all this is my T-L pivot. It allows me to get my fields into good shape and the tobacco develops big root systems,” he observes. “T-Ls are super pivots.”

And you think you have troubles!

Everything had to be done in a bit of a rush that first growing season of 2004. Since time was limited, the large ant mounds were “scalped” with hoes in order to allow the T-L’s spans to go over them with a half-foot of clearance rather than completely wiping them out.

Then the T-L did as all center-pivots do, it developed a track that became a little deeper with every circle. The pipe got lower and the ants rebuilt the mound. When they connected, the ant mound toppled the nearest tower. Score: Ants: 1, T-L: 0.

“Apart from that, I’ve found my T-L to be pretty tough with no problems,” Marffy says.
“We’ve used one competing brand and one was enough.”
Russ Kreutz remembers how tough it was to raise crops before irrigation came in and changed the area around Giltner, Nebraska.

His father was one of the first irrigators and also one of the first users of T-L products as well, beginning with tow-line sprinklers. His experience showed they offered more labor and water efficiency savings over the open ditch and gated pipe irrigation he'd been using.

Then, it was on to center-pivot sprinklers utilizing several of the early T-L chain-drive pivots. These were later converted to worm gear drives. After this he had the opportunity to use one of the first experimental T-L planetary-drive units.

Now there are 15 T-Ls operating in the Kreutz fields. Oh, yes, and at one time they also had one new electric center-pivot installed.

“I bought one competing make in the late ’80s or early ’90s—and one was enough!” Kreutz stated. He says he just doesn’t have the electrical background for the fixing it requires. If his T-Ls need a repair he can do it himself. Most of the T-L repairs have been “quick fixes”.

He’s had to replace almost all of the gear boxes on the electric center-pivot. He notes that, “To be fair, it’s almost 20 years old, but I have T-Ls that are twice as old that still have all their original planetaries.”

Kreutz remembers well that the main selling point about T-Ls to his father was, “Strong, strong service,” a most high priority. He sums up his experience by saying, “Our service has been good from day one, year after year, always.

“You’ve got to keep those sprinklers running. You just can’t be spending a lot of time out there working on pivots all day,” he cautions.

“What I like most about T-Ls is the simplicity of repairs and, really, the lack of repairs,” Kreutz adds.

“Certainly, all machines require maintenance. Yet except for T-L’s winter maintenance program performed every other year on all my machines, it’s mostly been minor parts such as a hydraulic line or weather-checked hoses. They just don’t need much.

“Also, I think the continuous movement prolongs the life of the components,” he says. You don’t have that electric pivot start-stop action all the time.”

Although the price tag for T-Ls was “kind of Cadillac”, according to Kreutz that didn’t matter all that much to them, “Because the product was more important than the price. A T-L is a great value. It’s simple, and it needs hardly any repairs. The machine will pay for itself.”

The experience of both he and his father, Kreutz sums up, is that T-L is a family owned business that makes a great product.

“Oh, yes, and they understand and care about their customers. Whenever anybody asks me about T-Ls, I tell them, ‘You won’t be disappointed’.”
Recently it has been suggested that hydraulics and hydrostatic power is “old technology”. True, hydraulic power has been around for a long time, but there are good reasons for that. Hydraulic power is easy to understand, safe, efficient and economical. Virtually every machine essential to farming success utilizes hydraulics and every grower is highly familiar with the principles of hydraulic application and maintenance.

Far from disappearing, hydrostatic power and hydraulics are even more widely applied in aviation, space, manufacturing, mining and transportation. More often now one will see hydraulics used in combination with electricity, compressed air, steam or other energy sources. Hydraulic hybrids are proving to be more efficient than electric hybrids for large vehicles that endure heavy use. Also, one or more of the major automobile companies are working on the hydraulic hybrid concept. Again, hydraulic applications are far from fading away.

Development of the hydrostatically powered center pivot irrigation system was truly innovative and “out of the box” thinking back in 1968 when the center pivot industry was fledgling. The advantages of continuous system movement delivering even water distribution, low maintenance cost, and operator safety were deciding factors in going with the hydraulic design.

Others, and there were a lot of them, tried water, air, and other mechanical drives but ended up going with high voltage electricity due to its being less challenging to design and manufacture. Of the hundreds of companies that attempted to build pivot systems, only four major manufacturers remain and only one that has successfully mastered the design and manufacture of hydrostatically powered pivot systems: T-L Irrigation Co.

T-L has been successfully active in irrigation for 55 years and continues to bring the tried and true principles and advantages of hydraulics into the 21st century. T-L combines hydraulics with new electronic system management technology, and has a corporate mission to continuously improve product quality. Growing from an entrepreneur’s idea, T-L and its broad dealer network now market all across the United States and in over 50 countries internationally. Moreover, T-L’s owners and many T-L employees are farmers or have close agricultural ties. Many own and operate T-L systems on their own farms. They know what works.

It just makes good common sense that a farmer’s pivot irrigation system should be in concert with the rest of his equipment. A farmer may not know electricity, but he knows hydraulics!

Old habits are often hard to break, but isn’t it time to make the change from high voltage electric irrigation to proven, safe, and truly innovative hydraulics? Think about it, and then make your move. Let T-L and its dealers provide you with decades of reliability and lasting value.
For 55 years, T-L Irrigation Co. has been guided by values common to the farming community; Family, trust, strength, innovation and dependability to name a few. Like the pivot irrigation systems it builds, the Company is well into its third generation of ownership, bringing the benefits of longevity and experience to its dealers and customers.

T-L pivot systems are hydrostatically powered, just as the key equipment on all farms are, something farmers work with every day and have confidence in. Solid values, solid Company, and irrigation systems designed to work like you do. Let T-L and T-L dealers provide you with lasting value and decades of reliability. Visit our website at www.tlirr.com, or call us at 1-800-330-4264.
The T-L Difference.

Read what other producers have to say. Our website is a valuable resource packed with useful information about T-L irrigation systems and our customers’ experiences. Visit it today.