

H8 - Setting of feeders for weaners



Feed wastage is expensive. A five per cent feed wastage costs approx. DKK 3-4 per weaner depending on the feed price.

Correct setting of feeders:

1. The pigs have easy access to feed, but without feed wastage occurring.
2. The first week, leave the feeder open for all pigs to learn how to use it.
3. There is feed on the board, but little feed by the nipple drinkers.
4. Check the settings **every day**.

Light:

5. Leave the light on in the facility from 7 to 22.

Pigs per tube feeder:

6. Depending on the brand, one tube feeder can serve up to 50 to 60 pigs (25 to 30 pigs per side). In pens with more pigs, you will need two feeders.



Inadequate focus on setting of feeders

- Too open increases the risk feed wastage.
- Not sufficiently open: the pigs do not have easy access to feed; risk of uneven growth.
- Not sufficiently open increases the risk of blocking of feed pipes.
- If the pipes are blocked, check for old/wet feed stuck in the feed pipe.
- Risk of queuing.

Reduce blocking by

- Hanging a chain through the feed pipe.
- Placing a flat bar in/under the feed pipe that the pigs can activate.
- Placing nipple drinkers in an adequate height and reducing the pressure so that water does not splash directly onto the board.
- Drilling a hole in the upper part of the drinking trough as a guarantee against overflow.



Additional comments - Setting of feeders for weaners

1. If feeders are inadequately cleaned, the pigs may not be able to activate the feeder sufficiently to release enough feed.
4. Check the settings of all feeders before pigs are transferred to the facility. Remember that 'the same setting on the scale' does not give the same access to feed. Therefore, always set the feeders according to the pigs' need by assessing the amount of feed in the trough.
5. Leave the light on in the facility from, for instance, 7 to 22. Experience shows that this results in a more even use of the feeders; less agitation among the pigs by the feeders and low-ranking pigs increase their chances of getting feed. Minimum 8 hours of light is a statutory requirement.
6. Tube feeders do not have a clearly defined number of feeding points. Depending on brand and number of pigs in the pens, 1 to 2 tube feeders in the transition between lying area and manure area are required in the pen partition between two pens.
50 pigs per feeder primarily applies for meal feed, which the pigs do not eat as quickly, and 60 pigs per feeder primarily applies for pelleted feed.