

H5- Water for weaners



Drinking trough with tipping device



Nipple drinkers in different heights



A simple method for flushing of pipes

The water requirement of weaners depends on the feed's content of dry matter, protein and salts, the pigs' feed intake and the temperature of their environment.

1. Drinking trough

Several pigs can drink at the same time. The design of the trough must match the pigs to provide easy access to the water.

2. Drinking bowl

Pigs per bowl: 15 to 30 (depending on type). Water output of the valve in the drinking bowl: minimum 1 litre per minute.

3. Nipple drinkers

Place nipple drinkers in a height, that makes it easy for the pigs to drink.

4. Pigs per nipple drinker

Dry feeding: max. 10 pigs. Always have minimum two nipple drinkers per pen.

5. Output of nipple drinkers

Weaners: 0.5 to 0.8 litre per minute regardless of the type of drinker.

6. Check output

Use a litre cup and a stop watch.

7. Cleaning

It is absolutely essential that the water supply is easy to clean, replace, adjust and maintain.



Dirty drinking bowl

Pay attention to hygiene

- Cup-shaped drinking bowls can be difficult to keep clean as the pigs easily defecate in them.
- Drinking troughs may be difficult to keep clean.

Additional comments - Water for weaners

- 1.** Place drinking troughs in the dunging/activity areas close to the feeder. Do not place drinking troughs in a corner as the pigs will then defecate in them. Do not place drinking troughs close to a pen gate. The trough can be installed on a pen wall. If there is more than one trough in a pen, place them close to each other. If there are two drinking troughs or more per pen, the pigs will have a tendency to use only one, and, as a result, the other will become dirty.
- 2.** Drinking bowls can be used by several pigs at a time and must match the pigs to make it easy for them to use the nipple drinker in the bowl. In Denmark, several types of drinking bowls are available - study the instructions from each company and ask your pig advisor for more information.
- 3.** One pen may have, for instance, several nipple drinkers fixed in different heights.
- 4.** In pens with few pigs, always have minimum 2 nipple drinkers per pen so that the pigs are not dependent on the function of one nipple drinker. This will also increase the chances of a low-ranking pig of getting water.
- 5.** If the output of the nipple drinkers is too low, the pigs will not have a sufficiently high-water intake.

The water output in a facility may vary greatly due to, for instance, pressure loss in the pipe system.

Besides checking the output of the drinker before pigs are transferred to the facility, also check the output when many pigs are drinking and/or when water is being used for, for instance, high-pressure cleaning or intake of water to production of liquid feed.
- 6.** Tap water from the valve into a plastic bag or a plastic container for 15 seconds. Pour the water into the litre cup and read the water level. Multiply the result by 4 to get the water output per minute.
- 7.** If the pipes etc. have been empty for a period of time, flush the pipe system before the pigs start using them. Also, routinely check the function of the nipple drinkers so that all drinkers in a section have been tested over a period of 14 days.

It is essential that adjustment and tipping devices for cleaning in drinking bowls are easy to operate without tools. Likewise, it must not be possible for the pigs to activate these devices.