WATER INTAKE

Recommended Flow Rate and Height of Nipple

Phase	Weight (kgs)	Intake (L/day)	Nipple Drinkers	
			Flow (L/min)	Height (cm, 450)
Gestation		Variable	0.5 to 1.0	90cm / 35in
Lactation		12-20	1.0 to 2.0	90cm / 35in
Piglets		Variable	0.5 to 0.7	15cm / 6in
Nursery	5	1.0 - 2.0	0.5 to 1.0	30 cm / 12in
	7	1.5 - 2.5	0.5 to 1.0	35cm / 14in
	15	2.5 - 3.	0.5 to 1.0	45cm / 18in
	20	3.0 - 4.0	0.5 to 1.0	50cm / 20in
Finishing	25	3.0 - 4.0	0.5 to 1.0	55cm / 22in
	50	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	65cm / 26in
	75	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	75cm / 30in
	>100	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	80 cm / 32in

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Drinkers

Height (cm, 900)
75 cm / 30”
75cm / 30in
10cm / 4in
25cm / 10in
30cm / 12in
35cm / 14in
40cm / 16in
45cm / 18in
55cm / 22in
65cm / 26in
70 cm / 28in

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

- Nipple drinkers mounted at 900, nipples should be set at **SHOULDER HEIGHT** based on the height of the smallest pig in the pen.
- Nipple drinkers mounted downwards at 450, nipples should be set at 5cm or 2 inches **ABOVE** the back of the pig, based on the height of the smallest pig in the pen.
- Check fl ow rates. Flow rates determine the time spent at the nipple, water intake and water wastage.
- Repair or replace leaky drinkers and water lines.
- Individual water wastage increases with nipple flow rate.
- Water wastage of finisher pigs from a nipple drinker ranges between 25 - 40%.
- Recent preliminary audit results of water flow rates indicate approximately 65% of nipple drinkers provide water flow rates higher than required (‘From Innovation to Adoption: On-Farm Demonstration of Swine Research’)
- Drinking speed (actual intakes) of pigs was increased with nipple flow rate.