

H9 - Setting of feeders for finishers



Feed wastage is expensive. A five per cent feed wastage costs approx. DKK 10 to 15 per finisher depending on the feed price.

Correct setting of feeders

1. The pigs have easy access to feed, but without feed wastage occurring.
2. There is feed on the board, but little feed by the nipple drinkers.
3. Check the settings **every day**.
4. When the pigs weigh 60 to 70 kg, it may be necessary to further reduce their access to feed.

Light:

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

Pigs per tube feeder:

6. Depending on brand, a tube feeder can serve 35 to 40 pigs (16 to 20 pigs per side).



Inadequate focus on setting of feeders

- Too open increases the risk of feed wastage. Use a flashlight to see through the slats and check for feed wastage.
- Not sufficiently open: the pigs do not have easy access to feed.
- 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.

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 water trough as a guarantee against overflow.

Additional comments - Setting of feeders for finishers

- 1.** If feeders are inadequately cleaned, the pigs may not be able to activate the feeder sufficiently to release enough feed.

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.

Use a flashlight to check under the slats for visible feed wastage.

- 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.** 35 pigs per feeder primarily applies for meal feed, which the pigs do not eat as quickly, and 40 pigs per feeder primarily applies for pelleted feed.