

## H7 - Water for finishers, nipple drinker



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

### 1. Location

Place nipple drinkers in a height that makes it easy for the pigs to use them.

### 2. Pigs per nipple drinker

Dry feeding: max. 10 pigs. Always have minimum 2 nipple drinkers per pen. Liquid feeding: max. 15 pigs.



Check of water output in a feeder

### 3. Output of nipple drinkers

Growers and finishers: minimum 0.8 to 1.2 litre per minute regardless of type.

### 4. Check output

Use a stop watch and litre cup. Collect the water in a bag before pouring into a litre cup and measure the level.

### 5. Cleaning

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



A simple method for flushing of pipes



### Incorrect location of nipple drinker

- Placing the nipple drinker above the liquid feed trough may result in water waste and affect the feed intake of the pigs negatively.

<b>Additional comments - Water for finishers, nipple drinkers</b>	
<b>1.</b>	Nipple drinkers must be easy to clean, adjust, replace and maintain.
<b>2.</b>	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 drinker. This also increases the chances of low-ranking pigs of getting water.
<b>3.</b>	<p>If the output of the drinking bowls is too low, the pigs will not have a sufficiently high-water intake.</p> <p>The water output in a facility may vary greatly due to, for instance, pressure loss in the pipe system.</p> <p>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 water is being used for, for instance, high-pressure cleaning or intake of water for liquid feeding.</p>
<b>4.</b>	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.
<b>5.</b>	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.