

H6 - Water for finishers, drinking bowl



Drinking bowl

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

The exact location of a drinking bowl in a pen depends on feeding principle and pen type. Generally, place the drinking bowl in the activity or dunging areas.

2. Pigs per drinking bowl

Growers and finishers: 15 - 30 pigs*
* depends on design.

3. Output of drinking bowls

Minimum 1 litre per minute.

4. Check output

Use a stop watch and litre cup. Collect the water in a bag / litre cup.

5. Cleaning of drinking bowls

Clean the drinking bowls when needed.
Check hygiene minimum once a day.



Poor hygiene is often seen in blind corners - often by joints, nuts and bolts where feed and manure from the pigs' snouts accumulate.

Be aware of

- If there are two or more drinking bowls in the same pen, they must be placed close to each other with a distance of 50 cm. Alternatively, combine drinking bowl with nipple drinkers.

Additional comments - Water for finishers, drinking bowls

1. Do not place drinking bowls in a corner as that will make the pigs defecate in them; instead place them minimum 1 metre from a corner. Likewise, do not place drinking bowls close to gates. Drinking bowls must be made of materials that can withstand the pigs biting in them and must be easy to clean and maintain.
2. Drinking bowls can be used by several pigs at a time and must match the pigs to make it is easy to activate the valve 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. If the output of the drinking bowls 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 for liquid feeding.
4. 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.
5. Cup-shaped drinking bowls with a clear water surface make it easy for the pigs to use the drinker and are also easy to inspect, but, unfortunately, it is also easy for the pigs to defecate in them. With these types of drinking bowls, pay special attention to the daily hygiene, and it may be necessary to clean them several times a day.
If the pipes and drinking bowls have been empty for a period of time, flush the system before the pigs start using them.