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PIG EDITION

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Sufficient water

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According to Statutory Order about Protection of Pigs, pigs that are more than two weeks old must have free access to sufficient fresh water (Danish rules) or should be able to cover their water requirement in other ways.

And there are several ways to cover the water requirement. In the below table, recommendations have been compiled concerning number of pigs per water supply device in the different animal categories:

Nipple drinkers

Nipple drinkers are hygienic. But there is water waste when the pigs are drinking.

The placement of the nipple drinkers is important. Pay attention to the height in particular. If the mounting height is not correct, the water waste is increased.

There should be an atmospheric pressure of 2.0 to 2.5 on the water. If the water pressure is too high, the water waste is also increased.

In general, analyses have shown that the water waste is higher when using nipple drinkers than when using drinking bowls.

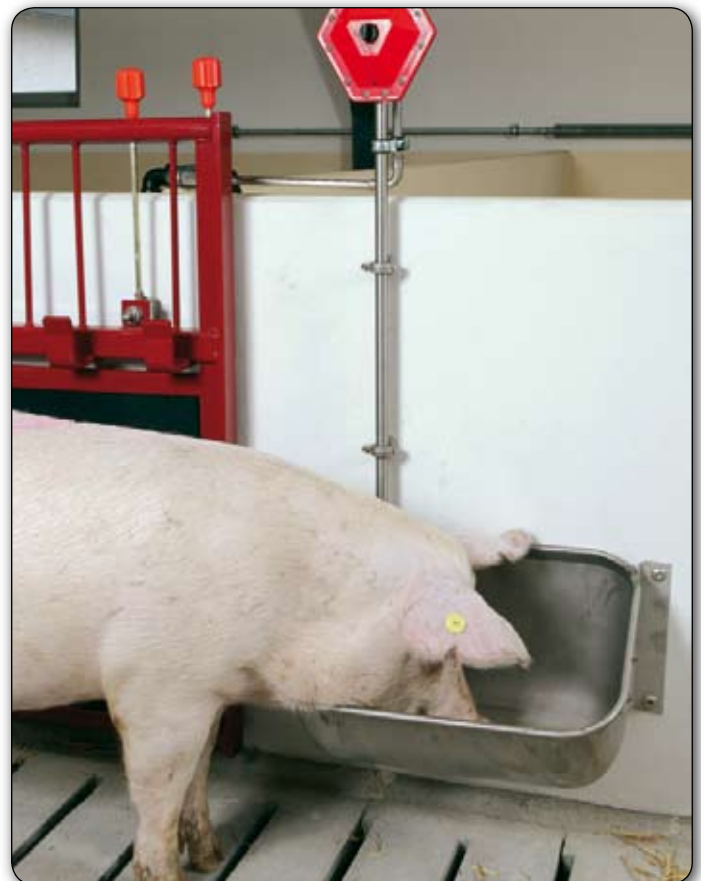


Photo: Egebjerg International A/S



Drinking bowls

It is important that the design of the drinking bowls corresponds to the size of the pigs. The valve at the bottom of the drinking bowl should be easy to operate and at the same time, the water should be readily accessible. Specially the piglets and the recently weaned pigs must have easy access to locating and drinking water.

Placement of drinking bowls must accommodate the smallest pigs in the pen. But at the same time, the biggest pigs should not be able to defecate in the bowl.

In view of the hygiene, there should not be blind corners in the drinking bowl.

Sharp edges, bolts or nuts in connection with drinking bowls can injure the pig's head; it should thus be avoided.

Immediately after the pigs have been stocked in a pen with drinking bowls, one should fill the drinking bowl with water so a water level is

created. You can also have drinking devices that drips water down into the bowl. This automatically creates a water level and at the same time the dripping makes the pigs curious to find out what is going on in the bowl.

Vacuum valve

A vacuum valve maintains a constant water level in the trough or trough space. In principle, it could be used for all animal categories.

However, it is not recommended to use vacuum valves in long troughs with liquid feeding, as it dilutes the feed mixture; also, the liquid feed has to push the water when it spreads in the trough.

One has to focus attention to the hygiene in the tube on the vacuum valve. And at the same time, one has to pay attention to the fact that straw, feed remnants or the like are sucked up into the tube resulting in the vacuum function tapering off.

Water supply and way of housing ¹⁾

Animal category	Way of housing	Type of water supply	Pigs per water supply device	Recommended output of nipple drinkers, l/min. ²⁾
Piglets	Farrowing section	Nipple drinker with drinking board	One per farrowing pen	Max. 0.5
	Farrowing section	Bite valve	One per farrowing pen	
	Farrowing section	Nipple valve	One per farrowing pen	
	Farrowing section	Drinking bowl	One per farrowing pen	
	Farrowing section	Portable trough for manual filling	One per farrowing pen	
Weaners		Bite valve	10*	0.5 – 0.8
		Nipple valve	Dry feeding: 10*	
			Liquid feeding: 15	
		Drinking bowl	15 - 30**	
Finishers	Long trough	Drinking trough with vacuum valve	Varying	
		Snout valve	Dry feeding: 2	
		Nipple valve	Dry feeding: 10*	0.8 – 1.2
			Liquid feeding: 15	
Sows		Drinking trough with vacuum valve	Varying	
	Group	Nipple valve	10*	1.5 – 2.0 (gestant)
	Pen/stall	Snout valve	1	Min. 3.0 (gestant) Min. 4.0 (nursing sows)
	Group	Drinking bowl	15	
		Vacuum valve in drinking trough or trough	Varying	

* Minimum two nipple drinkers per pen

** Depending on the shape

*** Dimension in mm indicates the drinking surface of the drinking trough for outdoor production

1) Source: Info Svin, Water supply and way of housing

2) Source: Danish Pig Production