



Swine Innovation Porc



Centre de développement
du porc du Québec inc.



PRAIRIE
SWINE
CENTRE | 25
YEARS

WATER INTAKE

Recommended Flow Rate and Height of Nipple Drinkers

Phase	Weight (kgs)	Intake (L/day)	Nipple Drinkers		
			Flow (L/min)	Height (45°)	Height (90°)
Gestation		Variable	0.5 to 1.0	90cm / 35in	75 cm / 30in
Lactation		12-20	1.0 to 2.0	90cm / 35in	75cm / 30in
Piglets		Variable	0.5 to 0.7	15cm / 6in	10cm / 4in
Nursery	5	1.0 - 2.0	0.5 to 1.0	30 cm / 12in	25cm / 10in
	7	1.5 - 2.5	0.5 to 1.0	35cm / 14in	30cm / 12in
	15	2.5 - 3.5	0.5 to 1.0	45cm / 18in	35cm / 14in
	20	3.0 - 4.0	0.5 to 1.0	50cm / 20in	40cm / 16in
Finishing	25	3.0 - 4.0	0.5 to 1.0	55cm / 22in	45cm / 18in
	50	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	65cm / 26in	55cm / 2in
	75	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	75cm / 30in	65cm / 26in
	>100	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	80 cm / 32in	70 cm / 28in

Source: Prairie Swine Centre, Pork Production Reference Guide, 2000.

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

- » Nipple drinkers mounted at 90°, nipples should be set at **SHOULDER HEIGHT** based on the height of the smallest pig in the pen.
- » Nipple drinkers mounted downwards at 45°, 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 flow 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

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