



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 (cm, 45°)	Height (cm, 90°)
Gestation		Variable	0.5 to 1.0	90cm / 35"	75 cm / 30"
Lactation		12-20	1.0 to 2.0	90cm / 35"	75cm / 30"
Piglets		Variable	0.5 to 0.7	15cm / 6"	10cm / 4"
Nursery	5	1.0 - 2.0	0.5 to 1.0	30 cm / 12"	25cm / 10"
	7	1.5 - 2.5	0.5 to 1.0	35cm / 14"	30cm / 12"
	15	2.5 - 3.5	0.5 to 1.0	45cm / 18"	35cm / 14"
	20	3.0 - 4.0	0.5 to 1.0	50cm / 20"	40cm / 16"
Finishing	25	3.0 - 4.0	0.5 to 1.0	55cm / 22"	45cm / 18"
	50	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	65cm / 26"	55cm / 22"
	75	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	75cm / 30"	65cm / 26"
	>100	5.0 - 7.0	0.5 to 1.0	80 cm / 32"	70 cm / 28"

## 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 audit results of water flow rates indicate approximately 65% of nipple drinkers provide water flow rates higher than required.
- » Drinking speed (actual intakes) of pigs was increased with nipple flow rate