



TECH NICKEL TIPS

RIGHT-SIZED WATER LINES FOR THE HOG BARN

Pigs need enough water to grow fast and stay healthy, but it is surprisingly common for water to be short.

Winnipeg Agriculture Engineering consultant Dennis Hodgkinson says a producer may notice pigs that are not eating and think there is a feed problem, when the first thing that should be checked is the water supply. In fact it is a good practice to make sure all pigs are getting water everyday.

If the drinkers are working, and the pigs still aren't getting enough water, it might be because the supply line is too small. Hodgkinson says more than one producer has drilled out 20 nipple drinkers so each could delivery a gallon a minute, when the line feeding them could only delivery 5 gallons a minute!

The Table below is a simple guide that shows the amount of water various line sizes can carry.

Water Delivery System Requirements

| Pigs Served | System Flow | | Minimum Pipe Diameter | |
|-------------|-------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| | l/min | gpm | mm | in |
| 100 | 15 | 3 | 19 | _ |
| 200 | 20 | 4 | 19 | _ |
| 300 | 35 | 8 | 25 | 1 |
| 500 | 45 | 10 | 25 | 1 _ |
| 700 | 55 | 12 | 32 | 1 _ |
| 1,000 | 75 | 16 | 32 | 1 _ |
| 1,500 | 95 | 19 | 38 | 1 _ |
| 2,000 | 95 | 21 | 39 | 1 _ |

*For main supply lines use 32 mm (1 _ in) for flows up to 45 l/m (10 gpm), and 38 mm (1 _ in) for flows up to 90 l/m (20 gpm)

VIDO

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