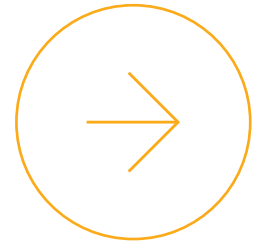


Reducing litter moisture under drinkers



Procedure: How to measure drinker flow rate

This procedure should be repeated at least once a year using the same water pressure to reveal any changes in drinker flow rate due to age or wear. You should test more often if water quality is low or if medications or corrosive cleaners are used in the drinker lines.

Equipment needed

- 50 ml measuring cylinder with graduated measurements
- Timer or stopwatch
- Recording sheet and pen

Step 1

- Check the regulator is set at the correct pressure and record the height of the water.
- Ensure the drinker line is level along its length.
- Choose a nipple between the middle and far end of the drinker line (furthest from the regulator).

Step 2

- Put the measuring cylinder underneath the nipple.
- Get the timer ready. Activate the nipple and let water flow for 30 seconds.

Step 3

- After 30 seconds, stop water flowing into the cylinder and measure the volume of water.
- Multiply the volume by 2 to get the flow rate in millilitres per minute (ml/min).

Step 4

- Record the value on your sheet.
- Compare the flow rate with values recommended for your chickens (refer to data supplied from the manufacturer). **Please note these are a guide only. Different drinker nipples may achieve different flow rates. Refer to your previous measurements and experience with your drinker nipples and litter conditions before making changes.**

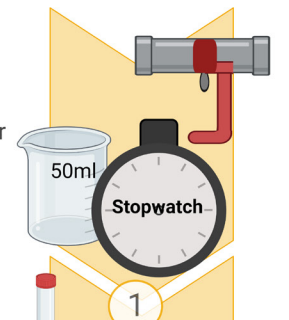
Step 5

- Repeat on other nipples on the same line.
- Repeat on other drinker lines.

How to measure drinker flow rate

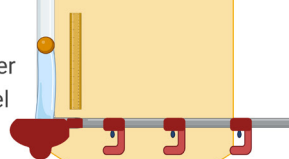
Equipment

- 50 ml measuring cylinder
- Stopwatch



Check drinker line

- Record the height of water
- Check drinker line is level



Measure flow rate

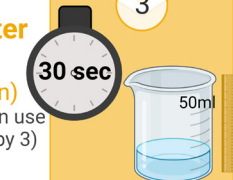
- Start a timer for 30 sec



Measure volume of water

$$\text{Volume of water} \times 2 = \text{Flow rate (ml/min)}$$

(For flow rate more than 100 ml/min use 20 sec timer and multiply volume by 3)



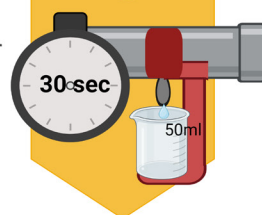
Record value and compare flow

- Ensure the flow rate is the recommended volume for your chickens



Repeat process

- Repeat on other nipples on the same line than on other drinker lines



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More resources

- Aviagen: How to measure nipple drinker flow rates http://en.aviagen.com/assets/Tech_Center/BB_Resources_Tools/Broiler-Mgt/AVBR-Howto8-MeasureNippleDrinkerFlowRate-18.pdf
- Cobb broiler management guide, page 18 https://www.cobb-vantress.com/assets/Cobb-Files/4d0dd628b7/Broiler-Guide_English-2021-min.pdf

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