Importance of Water Quality



Why is water important?

- Access to clean water is fundamental for all living creatures, and for farm animals, the quality of the water they drink can have a direct impact on performance and productivity.
- Water is often considered the forgotten nutrient, yet it is the single most important ingredient in a pig's diet and accounts for between 50–80% of bodyweight of the pig.
- Water consumption is closely linked to feed intake during any given phase of production. As a general rule, pigs consume two to three times more water than feed. If pigs cannot drink enough, they eat less.

Do you know the quality of your pigs' water?



How frequently should you test?

Annually is the minimum advised but ideally, always test before pigs enter a building, if on an all-in all-out system.



Where should samples be taken?

- **Point of entry** *(point at which the water comes onto the farm, as close to the mains boundary/borehole/tee-off as possible).*
- **Weaner/Grower accommodation**
- **Far end of the waterline** *(furthest point from where the water enters the farm - last drinker).*

What to test for?

- **Microbiology -** *E. coli, coliforms, Total Viable Count (TVC) after two days at 37.5°C and three days at 22°C*
- **Mineral -** *Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Mn, Mg, Ca, Cu, Na, Fe, hardness, pH, nitrates and nitrites*

Where to send water samples?

How to collect a water sample?

Discuss the results of your water sample with your vet and nutritional advisor

Pig HealthCheck
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