

Talkshop June 2024

It seems incredible that, despite the wet weather we've had over the winter and spring, there are already warnings that we will face water shortages this summer. The problems low water availability or water pressure can cause in our industry go far beyond the annoyances of the lawn-proud or gardener.

Having a contingency plan in place for water shortages or stoppages is part of Red Tractor requirements. Getting this in place before there is a problem will reduce stress and protect welfare.

How much water should you budget on needing? A rule of thumb is based on expected feed intake – with a ratio of water to feed at 2:1 for nursery pigs and 3:1 for grower and finisher pigs. This is a rough estimate as water requirements will increase with warmer, humid weather, feed type and feed composition.

Dry sows can typically drink around 10 litres of water each day with lactating sows around 30 litres. Ensuring adequate supply is essential as is maintaining the water delivery system to support decent flow rates.

Insufficient water will affect performance with feed intake and therefore growth affected in the growing herd. Where water is seriously depleted or absent we can see neurological signs and significant mortality associated with water deprivation and salt poisoning.

Now is the time to make sure your water systems are ready for summer! Check flow rates, check for leaks and consider giving the system a through clean. Disinfectants alone will have little or no effect on biofilm (the 'gunk' that builds up in the pipes and drinkers) and so a flush with a cleaning agent such as hydrogen peroxide is more effective.

Changes to products supplied



We have recently changed suppliers of some key products. Metacam has been replaced by **Meloxidyl** – the dose rate and the meat withdrawal period are the same for both products.



For those using in-water medication, Citramox has been replaced by **Huvamox**;



Karidox has been replaced by **Doxatib**.

In both cases the withdrawal periods remain the same but dose rates are different. **Please make sure you read the label carefully and use these products at the dose rate prescribed.** If you are unsure, please contact the team.

Dispensary closure

Due to our annual stocktake the Dispensary will be **closed on Friday June 28th**. We will not be sending drug orders out on that day so please get orders in promptly towards the end of the month.

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