



The effect of drinker design and position on water usage and performance of growing pigs

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Introduction

- ◆ Drinker designs that restrict water intake can reduce pig performance
- ◆ Drinker designs that waste water have major implications on slurry volume (Nitrates Directive)
- ◆ Aim: To investigate the effect of drinker design and position on pig performance and water 'usage'

Materials and methods

- ◆ 720 post weaned pigs in groups of 20
- ◆ Feed intake, growth and water usage measured from 4 weeks of age (weaning) to 10 weeks of age
- ◆ 4 drinker designs
- ◆ 2 drinkers in different positions within the pen



**Bowl : Drik-O-Mat
(250 mls/min)**



**Verba
(600 mls/min)**



**Bite Ball
(1200 mls/min)**



**Halfman Bite
(750 mls/min)**

Results

In stage 1/stage 2 :

	Bowl Side by Side	Bowl Apart	Verba Side by Side	Verba Apart	Half-man Bite	Bite Ball	SEM	Sig
Flow Rate (ml/min	250	250	600	600	750	1200		
Growth (g/day)	495	518	504	495	507	492	8.1	NS
Water Used (l/pig/day)	2.57	1.84	2.61	2.65	3.27	3.79	0.248	***

Conclusion

- ◆ **Drinker design significantly affected water usage**
- ◆ **Major implications for slurry volume**



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