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DRINKER LINE MANAGEMENT

AVIAGEN MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS

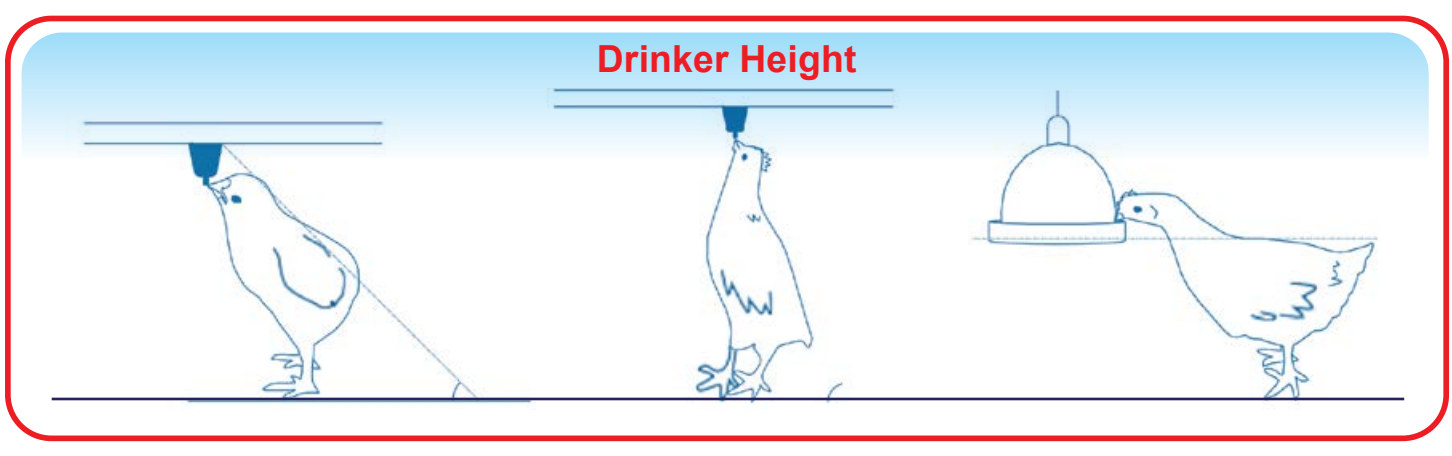
OBJECTIVE

Manage drinker lines and maintain the correct height daily to ensure birds can access water.

MANAGING AND MAINTAINING DRINKER LINES

Key Points

1. In brooding, nipple lines should be at a height that the bird can drink. The chick forms an angle of 35-45º with the floor while drinking. An older bird forms a 75-85º angle with the floor. The birds stretch slightly for the water. Drinker lines that are too high restrict water consumption. Water lines that are too low can result in wet litter.



2. Birds should be reared on the same drinker system as used when in production.

3. Check drinker lines daily and make adjustments for correct height.

4. Uniform bird distribution at the drinkers occurs with good drinker space and height.

5. Birds are consuming sufficient water at ambient temperatures of 21ºC

6. Birds drink more water at higher ambient temperatures.
   - Bird consumption requirement increases by 6.5% per 1°C above 21ºC
   - High temperatures can double daily water consumption.

7. Measurement of water consumption is useful to monitor system failures (feed and water), monitoring health and tracking bird performance.
   - The ratio of water in liters to feed weight in kg is:
   - 1.6 liters per 1 kilogram feed for nipple drinkers without cups
   - 1.7 liters per 1 kilogram for nipple drinkers with cups
   - 1.8 liters per 1 kilogram for bell drinkers

8. In open sourced drinkers, bacterial contamination can increase rapidly. Regular cleaning is needed, especially with young chicks during brooding.

9. Use of chlorine (3-5 ppm) is good practice to reduce bacteria.

10. Test the water regularly for bacteria and minerals and take corrective action.

11. Hard water and high iron or calcium may cause valves and pipes to block. Where sediment is a problem, filter the supply with a sieve (40-50 microns).

DRINKER MANAGEMENT

The recommended drinking space requirements are given below.

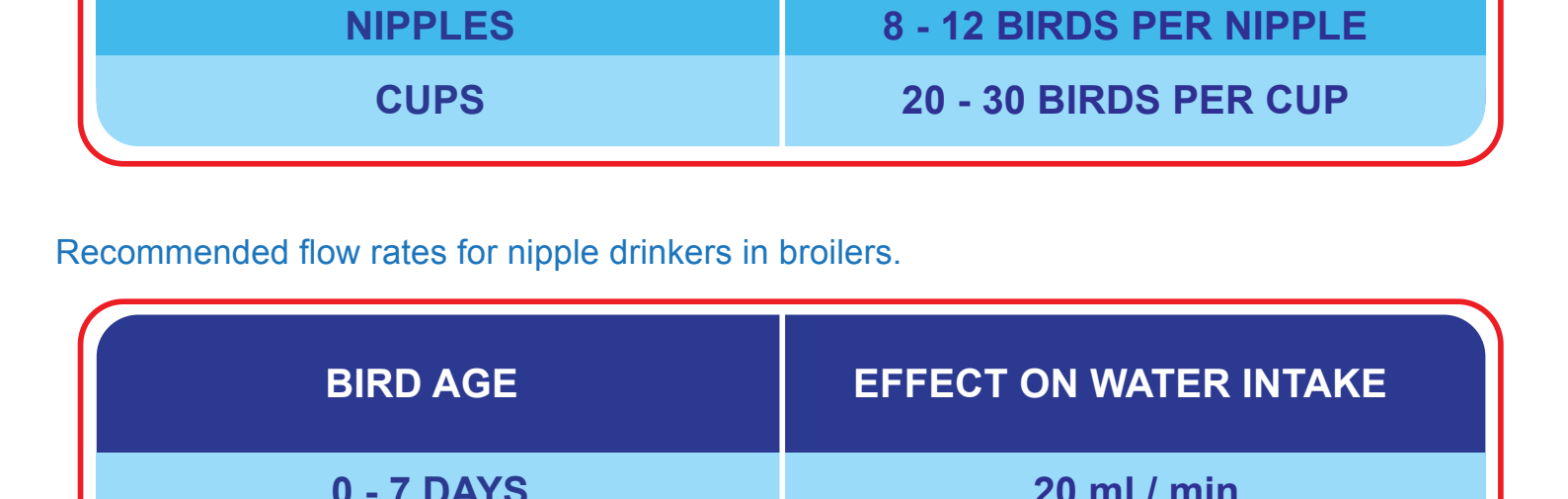
TYPE OF DRINKER	DRINKER SPACE
BELL DRINKERS	1.5 CM
NIPPLES	8 - 12 BIRDS PER NIPPLE
CUPS	20 - 30 BIRDS PER CUP

Recommended flow rates for nipple drinkers in broilers.

BIRD AGE	EFFECT ON WATER INTAKE
0 - 7 DAYS	20 ml / min
7 - 21 DAYS	60 - 70 ml / min
> 21 DAYS	70 - 100 ml / min

DRINKING SYSTEMS

DRINKER TYPE	REQUIREMENTS (POST BROODING)
NIPPLE DRINKERS	<3 kg - 12 BIRDS PER NIPPLE >3 kg - 9 BIRDS PER NIPPLE
BELL DRINKERS	8 DRINKERS (40cm) PER 1000 BIRDS



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