

FACT SHEET

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Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Resources SA

Livestock water intakes and salinity tolerances

WATER INTAKES OF LIVESTOCK*	
Stock Type	Litres/head/day
Sheep - Weaners	2 - 4
- Dry Adult	2 - 6 (4 - 12 on Saltbush)
Ewes with Lambs	4 - 10
Cattle - Young Stock	25 - 50
- Dry Stock	35 - 80
- Cows & Calves	40 - 100 (70 - 140 on Saltbush)
- Dairy Milking**	70 - 250
Horses	40 - 50
Pigs - Growers (25 - 90 kg)	3 - 12
- Dry Sow, Boar	12 - 15
- Sow & Litter	25 - 45
Poultry (per 100 birds)	
- Layer Hens	33
- Meat Birds (1-8 wks)	6 - 32

* Intakes will vary depending on type of feed, production level, physiological and environment conditions, and salt content of feed and water.

** Dairy operations may require up to another 100L/head/day for washdown & hygiene.

Salinity tolerances of livestock (mg/L of total soluble salts)			
Animal	Maximum concentration of healthy growth	Maximum concentration to maintain condition	Maximum concentration tolerated
Sheep	6 000	13 000	***
Beef cattle	4 000	5 000	10 000
Dairy cattle	3 000	4 000	6 000
Horses	4 000	6 000	7 000
Pigs	2 000	3 000	4 000
Poultry	2 000	3 000	3 500

*** Maximum level depends on type of feed available – for example saltbush vs greenfeed.

References:

Dept. Agriculture SA Fact Sheet 82/77
Qld. DPI Note Agdex 450/58
NSW Primefacts - Primefact 269
PIRSA Fact Sheet – Livestock Water Supplies

Welfare Audit for Chicken Meat Industry / Broiler
RIRDC Industry Quality Assurance Program

Approximate Conversions:

1,000mg/L = 1,785 EC
2,000mg/L = 3,570 EC
3,000mg/L = 5,355 EC
4,000mg/L = 7,140 EC
5,000mg/L = 8,925 EC
1mg/L = 1 ppm

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Agdex:

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