

Minimising Water Use

High performance nipple drinkers with ‘drip cups’ are used to minimise water wasted and to improve litter quality, subsequently reducing ammonia levels inside the sheds. The water supply is diverted into two pipe systems, one for each half of the shed. A dosing pump attached to the water supply will allow for vaccine, vitamins or electrolytes to be administered accurately.

Water consumption will be monitored and recorded daily from water meters within the houses. Daily checks by farm staff will allow for equipment height to be adjusted meeting the need of the birds. Having drinkers at the correct level and adjusting the flow pressure will allow birds to utilise the water correctly thus minimising wasted water and maintaining litter quality. These checks will also allow staff to attend to any problems with equipment, such as a leaking drinker nipple.

During the cleaning operation strict guidelines are given by a “tailored” site-specific terminal hygiene plan. This gives levels of water usage and dilution rates for the relevant detergents/disinfectants. Both staff and cleaning contractors are made fully aware of the terminal hygiene procedures.

All poultry houses are fully insulated, and have an adequate ventilation system to help regulate temperature and maintain a healthy environment inside the house, during times of extreme weather. Thus water consumption should not hugely increase during times of hot weather.