



Information Sheet 5

Basic Grazing Animal Requirements

Summary

- Adequate, cool, clean water is required.
- Fencing requirements are different for species of animal.
- Each animal species consumes a different quality and quantity of feed.

Water

All animals require access to water at all times, and that includes young animals that are still suckling or consuming milk. The better the quality of the water, the better the wellbeing of the animal. Water that is cool, consistent and close to the grazing area also results in better performance (a reticulated trough system). Naturally, water consumption increases in hotter conditions and when animals are lactating. The table (right) is a rough guide to daily water requirements.



Daily Water Requirements	
Type of Stock	Daily (litres)
Alpacas – grazing	5
Beef cattle	40–80
Calves	20–40
Dairy cows in milk	60–200
Ewes	7–10
Lambs	1– 2
Horses (grazing to	35–55

Fencing

The proper grazing of stock on your land, requires a capital outlay in the infrastructure required to manage the stock. Apart from stock-handling yards, fencing to implement a grazing regime needs to be considered. Boundary fences should, at all times, prevent stock from leaving the property. Internal fences should reflect the needs of the animal (i.e. higher visibility for horses). There is an array of products available, from permanent post and wire fences, semi-movable fibreglass posts with electric tape and movable/strip fencing equipment. For example, cattle, horse and pig electric fences require less wires and earth return compared to goats and sheep. The education of animals with strip fences takes time, but has even been shown to work with woolly sheep (as the 'flerd' pictured above demonstrates). See Information Sheet M for more details on training animals to respect electric moveable fences.

Feed requirements

Although poultry and pigs graze pasture, they require supplementary feeding as their nutritional needs will not be met by grazing pasture only.

Poultry require 15 to 100 grams of food per day. The table shows pig requirements.

Guidelines for feed requirements for pigs	
Weaner (4-10 weeks)	0.5–2.0 kgDM
Grower (10-17)	~2 kgDM
Finisher (17-24)	~3 kgDM
Dry sow or boar	~3 kgDM
Lactating sow	7.0+ kgDM

(Guidelines adapted from Producers Guide to Pig Nutrition, Pig Research and Development Corporation, 1998.)



The table below is a guide as to how much feed is required for various species of animals. It is vital to understand the daily requirements of the animals you choose to graze on your property. These requirements change as they grow, in different weather conditions and their access to shelter/shade.

(For this table, 1 DSE (Dry Sheep Equivalent) = 7.6 megajoules of metabolisable energy (MjME) and 1 KgDM (kilograms of Dry Matter) is calculated at 10 MjME.)

Type of livestock	DSE value	Energy (MjME)	Dry Matter (KgDM)
Alpacas (based on 65 kg animal)			
Hembra	1.3	9.9	1.0
Macho	1.1	8.4	0.8
Beef cattle			
Dry cow steer 350-450 kg	9.0	68.4	6.8
Fattening cattle 20-32 months	11.0	83.6	8.4
Cow with calf at foot – up to 8 months	15.0	114.0	11.4
Bulls	16.0	121.6	12.2
Dairy cows			
Cow – lactating	21.7	165	16.5
Deer			
Fallow dry female or castrated	1.5	11.4	1.1
Red stag	4.5	34.2	3.4
Goats			
Dry angora	1.0	7.6	0.8
Breeding angora	1.5	11.4	1.1
Dry milk or meat goat	1.5	11.4	1.1
Milk or meat goat – lactating	3.0	22.8	2.3
Horses			
Horse	10.0	76.0	7.6
Mare with foal	16.0	121.6	12.2
Pony	7.0	53.2	5.3
Stallion	16.0	121.6	12.2
Kangaroo			
Kangaroo	0.7	5.3	0.5
Sheep			
Dry sheep – wether, ewe, hogget score – condition 2	1.0	7.6	0.8
Dry sheep – wether, ewe, hogget – fattening	1.4	10.6	1.1
Breeding ewe	1.5	11.4	1.1

Critical: this does not account for a balance of macro and micro-nutrients required for an animal's balanced diet.

For more information, email environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au or call 5422 0333.