



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.
- Providing appropriate shelter and welfare for livestock



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.

Shelter and Welfare

It is import to be aware of your responsibilities to the welfare of your livestock and provide adequate shelter. This is particularly important during extreme heat and cold. Provisions for additional shelter and welfare requirements during extend period of unusual climatic conditions to limit animal stress is also important. Forward planning should be undertaken to ensure protection from the effects of natural disasters (i.e. flood, fire). For more information, visit Agriculture Victoria (livestock management and welfare).



In a holistic setting, providing native plantings of trees and shrubs in shelter belts, wildlife corridors, stepping stone plantings along with planting paddock trees can be hugely beneficial to the livestock welfare and shelter and also increase the biodiversity and productivity of the property.

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.

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.

Guidelines for feed requirements for pigs of all ages

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Weaner (4-10 weeks) | 0.5–2.0 kgDM |
| Grower (10-17 weeks) | ~2 kgDM |
| Finisher (17-24 weeks) | ~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.)

(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 |



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| | | | |
|---|------|-------|------|
| 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.