



Iron filtration improves water quality and availability

Farm facts

Name: Richard Knox
Location: Whiddon Down, Devon
Farm size & enterprise: 200 sows breeding to finish indoors

Benefits

- Improved water quality
- Less blocked pipework and drinker fittings
- Reduced bacterial growth
- Increased water availability and output
- The pump has a more even extraction rate

Background

Contamination of water supplies with iron and other heavy metals can lead to unpleasant tastes, discoloration, pipe blockages and damage to equipment.

The unit had a standard borehole and pump which worked on a 3 - 4 hour pump period, with a similar rest period; this pattern was repeated throughout the day.

The levels of iron in the water were high and "red" stains appeared after any small leak. The red staining could also be seen in the running water on occasion.

Filters, mesh and pipework regularly became blocked and the sedimentation reduced the diameter of the pipe work. In addition, the build-up of sedimentation was providing a medium for bacterial growth.



A water filter clogged up with sedimentation

“ This unit has historically had water provision issues; with the new filter the availability and pressure are excellent and quality has improved
Richard Knox, producer ”



The system

The Shakesby Filter System cost around £4,600 and filters out 99.9% of iron without affecting any other mineral levels. The system was easy to install and is compact.

Key to success

- Reduces sedimentation in pipe
- Reduces bacterial growth
- Increased water output
- Easy and compact to install

Note: Iron and Manganese are important elements of pig diets. Removing these elements from the water should not affect the daily intakes as the pigs' requirements will be available from standard pig rations. If formulating rations for home-mixing you should mention the change to your nutritional advisor.