

Why

Water is becoming more of a scarce resource that must be used very sparingly. Social pressure to use rainwater in poultry farming not only as cleaning water but also as drinking water for chickens is increasing. In order to use rainwater as drinking water for chickens, efficient treatment of the water is a must.

Clean drinking water is essential for optimal growth and development and provides the guarantee for quality meat and egg production. Poor drinking water quality can result in lower water intake and have a direct impact on animal performance such as lower feed intake and growth. Degraded drinking water quality can also cause reduced resistance and increased susceptibility to infections.

Chickens and chicks must have quality and microbially pure drinking water to avoid disease problems and further reduce antibiotic use in the industry.

Cost

The use of treated rainwater as drinking water has potential but rainwater is not “free. There are costs for rainwater storage, water treatment.

The cost of water treatment depends primarily on the type of treatment and the various treatment steps required to achieve the target quality standards of the treated rainwater (see drinking water standards for poultry).

Plant size is determined by water demand (m^3/day) and peak flow rate (m^3/hr).

What

Often the alternative water sources, including rainwater, do not meet the drinking water standards for poultry for all parameters. As a poultry farmer, you must then apply the appropriate water treatment and purification technique.

Various techniques exist for purifying water. Depending on the analytical results of the water sample, the most appropriate treatment technique(s) can be chosen.

In addition to the investment cost, operating and maintenance costs of the plant must also be considered.

Indicative guide cost prices range from €0.75 /m³ to €2.75 /m³. (*)

(*) Based on depreciation of the plant over a 10-year period and a water demand of 20 m³/day.

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