

How Much Water Do My Animals Need Each Day?

Use the table below to estimate daily water requirements. In cooler weather below 75 degrees, water consumption will be less. In estimating demand, it will be best to stay on the high side.

Species	Amount of Water
Beef and Dairy Cattle Non-Lactating	10-15 gallons per day
Lactating Cows and Bulls	20 gallons per day
Young Growing Cattle (< 500 lbs)	5-10 gallons per day
Sheep	1-2 gallons per day
Goats	1-2 gallons per day
Llamas	2-5 gallons per day
Alpaca	2-5 gallons per day
Donkey	6 gallons per day
Mature Horse	12-15 gallons per day
Pigs	1-2 gallons per day

Example:

I have 10 beef cows with calves.

Daily water requirement per cow = 20 gallons per day

10 lactating cows X 20 gallons per day = 200 gallons per day herd demand

If my water is turned off for two days, I would need at least 500 gallons of storage – Note: this gives you 100 gallons extra in case of delays with the water coming back on.

Your Herd:

Number of Animals: _____

Water Requirement per animal _____ gallons

of Animals _____ X Water Requirement / animal _____ = _____ daily herd demand (gallons)

of days without water _____ X Daily herd demand _____ = _____ Minimum Storage (gallons)

Please contact Roger Ingram, UC Farm Advisor and County Director, at 530.889.7385 or rsingram@ucdavis.edu. More information is available at ceplacer.ucdavis.edu.