

Drinkers – Water Pressure

The other day I whilst setting up a trial for one of the many drinker systems we try out before selling, some make it some do not! Having set up the system, (it's a nipple system with its own pressure regulator) hung it up and connected it all up....I turned on the tap.

Water spurted out of the breathers..."*this ain't meant to happen*". So I think the manufacturer has sold us a lemon. Before saying such to the manufacturer, "Perhaps the water pump isn't supplying consistent pressure to the system and if I connect it to a town supply with consistent pressure then all will be well", so I connected it to a town supply.

Water spurted out with considerably more vigour, even hitting the roof. "This is not good", I think.

On reflection.....

Actually this is not good at all, the nipple systems regulator like many, is built to work around the 300 Kilo pascal range, or about 30 metres of head. The regulator pulls 30metres down to what we want for nipples, about 30cm head, so it has enough work to do with 30m of water weight bearing down on it, let alone what my pump is doing, and again what my house water pressure is, my guess –the house pressure at my place is probably about 600kilopascal - that's 61 metres head - that's good for firefighting!

The sort of pressure my house pressure is and the pump pressure is also too high, is bad for washing machines, toilet cistern and explains how two of our toilets cisterns are always running. Also bad for farm auto float systems for cows, dogs, and horses ...i.e. the Stock brands drinker we sell, the Methven regulator, the Lubing regulator etc.

So for automated drinker systems, the drinker system is one thing , it's not everything, your environment matters, so take a look, or get a plumber to check the water pressure of your house, for your appliances and plumbing's sake, and the water pressure supplied by your tanks or pumps on farm or in the backyard.

For automated drinkers, including float tank systems, you want a supply pressure no more than 300kilopascals, preferably about between 200 and 280 kilopascals, or between 20 and 28 metres of head. This is supply pressure to the regulator or float, this is not the pressure for nipples or cups or bell drinkers that's a whole other story....

To regulate supply pressure...

- Adjust the pump or
- Add a pressure regulator for the whole backyard after the pump or
- Add a pressure regulator for the whole house and backyard, after the incoming water from the street or
- Add a set pressure regulator just for the line running the drinkers, this idea is cheapest and this sorts out the drinkers on that line, but what about your washing machine and other appliances?

Water pressure affects more than just automatic poultry drinkers. The automatic poultry drinker pressure problem, had a silver lining, I got to fix up a water pressure problem in my house. I got a set pressure regulator at 250 kilopascals that sorted out the nipple system under test, the house, that's

a bigger story and still not done, I will put in a regulator myself, or more likely my wife will get annoyed and call a plumber.

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