Implementation instructions for Drinking Water Check

Animal Welfare Initiative Poultry, Programme 2021-2023

The following requirements should be observed by the sampler (e.g. attending veterinarian or comsultants; no own sampling by livestock owner), so that the sample for drinking water will be removed appropriately and the sample result will not be distorted. A proper sampling is condition for a compelling examination result.
Please note: The drinking water sample within the Animal Welfare Initiative is only allowed to be drawn by registered sampler. (cf. **www.initiative-tierwohl.de**).

➔ *Note on quantity of drinking water checks:*
Before the first audit and then once in each following calendar year.

1. Sample vessel

a. Physical-chemical sample

For the physical chemical analysis only cleaned plastic- or glas bottles shall be used. Mineral water bottles have to be rinsed out several times with the examining water.
Unsuitable are lemonade- or juice bottles or rather jam or preserving jars.
Please inquire at your laboratory, how big the sample or the sample vessel has to be (e.g. 0,5 or 0,7 or 1 liter etc.; brimful).

➔ *Notes on water source:*
In the physical chemical analysis there is to differentiate:
When using water from the public water supply there is no analysis necessary.
When using an own well, at least one sample per water source (corresponding well) has to be examined physically-chemically. If more locations (= several location numbers or several production scopes) come from a common water source, a physical chemical analysis of this well by the registered sampler is sufficient. This analysis can then be used for several locations.

If water from the own well will also be used as drinking water (use for human and animal), the official drinking water monitoring can be drawn for the drinking water check as well, as long as the prescribed parameter have been examined and on the examination result it becomes clear, that it is an official sample. In this case the sampler must not be registered at the Animal Welfare Initiative.
The evidences may be dated to a maximum of one year (365 days to the implementation date) before the programme audit (first audit) (as of 1. January 2018); subsequently an analysis per calendar year has to be proven (you can find more information in the explanation of the agricultural manual – Catalogue of Criteria).

b. Microbiological Analysis

For the microbiological analysis the vessels have to be clean and sterile. Sterile bottles are usually available at laboratories and pharmacies. Alternatively, glass bottles including lid can be boiled.
Please inquire at your laboratory, how big the sample or the sample vessel has to be (e.g. 0,5 or 0,7 or 1 liter etc.; 5/6 filled).

➔ *Notes on water source:*
For the microbiological analysis samples from each shed of each water source (per location number) has to be drawn and analysed in accordance with the sample key. In addition to it, water from the own well as well as water from public drinking water supply has to be tested by a person registered at the Animal Welfare Initiative.

2. Water absorption

At first, open and close sampling point several times completely in order to rinse out dirt particles.

3. **Sterilisation of the sampling point**
   a. **Physical-chemical sample**
      Sterilisation is not necessary.

   b. **Microbiological analysis**
      Before sampling the outlet opening has to be sterilized. This can occur by thorough flame-scarf or suitable disinfectant (e.g. out of a spray bottle).

4. **Sampling**
   a. **Physical-chemical sample**
      Before sampling the water should flow freely for ca. 3 minutes. Subsequently the sampling vessel should be rinsed out with the tested water several times. The bottle should be filled to the brim. When filling, the vessel should be hold inclined in order to avoid air introduction. Bailed samples should be taken below the water surface.

   b. **Microbiological analysis**
      Before sampling the water should flow freely for ca. 3 minutes. The sterile sampling vessel should not be filled completely brimful (ca. 5/6). The extraction should occur under sterile conditions (clean hands or disposable gloves). Only remove the lid recently before the filling and hold it down during the filling; inner surfaces of vessel and lid must not be touched with hands, close vessel with the lid as soon as possible.

5. **Marking of the samples and protocol**
   The sample vessel must be marked clearly and distinctively and must be relatable (e.g. consecutive number, date, name and address, location number and designation of the shed (microbiological analysis in several sheds)).
   In addition, in the sampling protocol has to be documented following information: Name, address, location number of the company, sampling point (location of the tap or drinking nipples/drinking bowls); name of the sampler, date of the extraction.

6. **Transport/Dispatch to laboratory**
   The samples should be cool, dark (protected against solar radiation) and immediately (preferably within 24 hours) send by the sampler to a laboratory chosen by the livestock owner. With the dispatch a clear procurement has to occur, on which parameters the sample has to be examined (analysis order; normally there are purchase orders at the laboratories).

   ➔ *Notes on analysis of the samples:*
   The drinking water analysis can be commissioned in each qualified laboratory. An approval of the laboratories is currently not necessary.

   Please do not send the samples to the business office of the Animal Welfare Initiative.

7. **Notes on set points**
   The aim is to provide best suitable drinking water (as most important feed). If the orientation values will not be observed, measures have to be initiated, so that the values will be achieved as quickly as possible. If t overruns or shortfalls of the values will be determined in the analysis, an action plan for troubleshooting has to be established (including deadlines). In the meantime negative consequences for the animals have to be minimised as much as possible.
   The results themselves do not have an influence on the participation of the Animal Welfare Initiative. The corrective measures have to be initiated and documented at the time of the first audit (if applicable not concluded).

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