

# Total Dissolved Solids Guide for Dairy Cattle

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DAIRYLAND

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TDS (ppm) <sup>a</sup>	Comment
<1,000 (Fresh water)	Presents no serious burden to livestock.
1,000-2,999 (slightly saline)	Should not affect health or performance, but may cause temporary mild diarrhea.
3,000-4,999 (Moderately saline)	Generally satisfactory, but may cause diarrhea, especially upon initial consumption.
5,000-6,999 (saline)	Can be used with reasonable safety for adult ruminants. Should be avoided for pregnant animals and baby calves.
7,000-10,000 (very saline)	Should be avoided if possible. Pregnant, lactating, stressed or young animals can be affected negatively.
>10,000 (approaching brine)	Unsafe, should not be used under any conditions.

<sup>a</sup>TDS and salinity are commonly synonymous terms. NRC (1974)

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