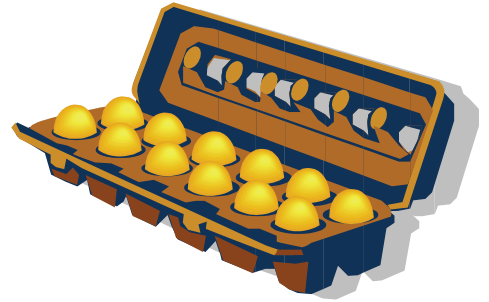


CARE OF FERTILE EGGS PRIOR TO INCUBATION

1. Keep eggs at 50° - 60° F (room temperature).
(DON'T PUT IN A REFRIGERATOR, IT IS TOO COLD!)
2. Store the eggs with the BIG end up in egg cartons.
3. You can store for 10 days after they have been laid before hatch rate decreases (50% hatch rate is a good rate). Incubation / hatching time begins once the eggs are placed in the incubator and brought up to 99 ½°F. Count day 1 after first 24 hours. **Incubation/hatching time for chickens are 21 days and 28 to 33 days for ducks.**



INCUBATOR SET UP

1. Place the incubator(s) away from any windows as the sunlight will magnify thru the plexi-glass cover making it too hot.
2. Set up the incubator four (4) hours prior to adding eggs; it will give the incubator an opportunity to regulate the water temperature in the reservoir. Put water into both of the troughs on the square cornered incubators (see diagram #1). In the round corner model which has a larger and smaller trough, place water in the outside trough labeled "circulating" (see diagram #2). **(Be sure that the incubator turns on at 99° and off at 100°F.)**

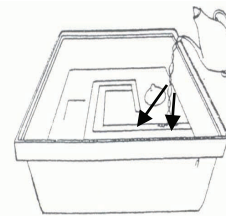


Diagram #1
Square corner incubator

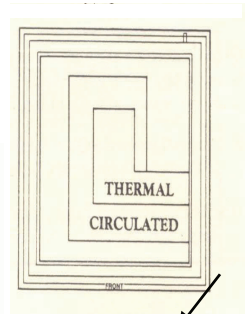


Diagram #2
Round Corner
incubator

3. Place the plastic thermometer, simply lay it across the top of the eggs, (see diagram #5). It will basically ride on top of the eggs.
4. Cover the adjusting stem on top with paper cup taped to help eliminate the likelihood of the setting being accidentally changed. (See diagram #3)

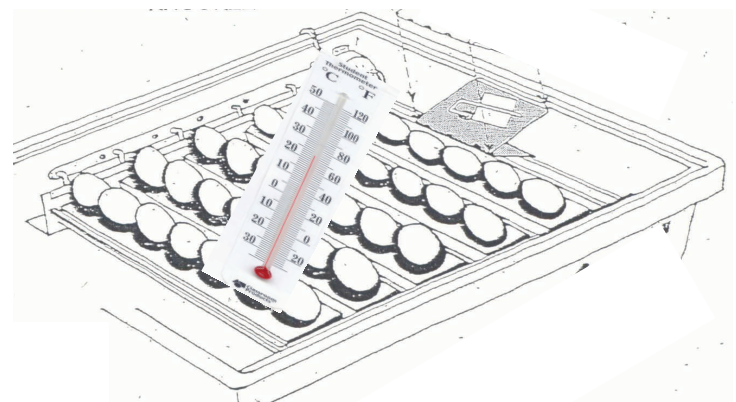


Diagram #5
Automatic Egg Turner

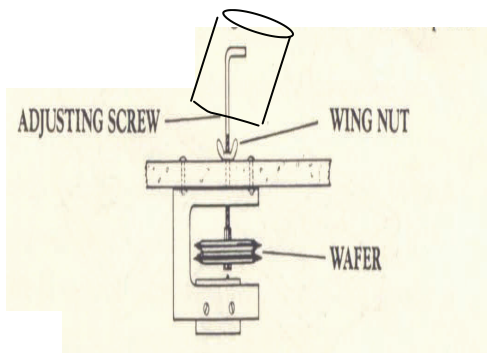


Diagram #3
Adjusting Screw

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

IMPORTANT TIPS ON HANDLING THE EGGS AND CHICKS

1. Wash hands before and after handling eggs or chicks. The oil and grime on hands can plug the pores on the shell of the egg.
2. It is a good idea to put the eggs in the incubator on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or a Thursday to help ensure they will hatch while children are present at school rather than over the weekend. Be sure to place the eggs with the BIG end up!
3. Put 1/4 of the eggs in the incubator in the morning, another 1/4 at night and do the same the next day. By doing this, it will expand the hatching time.
4. The auto turner takes four (4) hours to make a full rotation and you cannot see it move!
5. At least twice or three times a week, check water and add warm water to the bottom humidity tray if needed.
**Note, with duck eggs spray mist with warm water once a week for the first three weeks and every other day the last week.*
6. On the 19th day for chicken eggs or the 26th day for duck eggs, remove the lid, **take out the turner by picking it up on both of the longer sides.** If you pick it up on the ends where the slide is it will FALL APART! Lay the eggs on the screen on the bottom of the incubator on their sides, they do not have to be turned the last two days before hatching. Remember on the rounded corner model incubator to add water to the "thermal" tray as well; if using the older model be sure add water to both the troughs.
7. We recommend that you don't assign a child to a specific egg as a 50% - 60% hatch rate for fertile eggs is good, and all do not hatch. Bond the children after the eggs hatch with a healthy chick.



8. When the first egg shows a "pipped spot" (this shows that a chick is working his way out), remove the red plugs or tape from the two holes on top of the incubator to allow better air circulation as their bodies are beginning to function. Their bodies generate ammonia which is toxic to them in a concentrated form.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

9. After they peck the first opening in the egg they will rest for 8 - 10 hours before proceeding to peck around in a circle. This gives them time for their lungs to acclimate to the outside air.
10. The chicks umbilical cord is attached to the veins on the lining of the shell, as the chick pecks around in a circle it twists the cord which cuts off the supply of blood to the veins. When the veins are broken, the chick doesn't bleed. This is a necessary process and if we assist the chick too soon before it is twisted, there is a possibility the chick will bleed to death.

11. The chicks stay in the incubator for the first 24 hours. They do not need food or water during this time as they are absorbing the egg yolk in the abdomens.



12. The brooder box can be a large cardboard box or plastic storage tub. Line the brooder box with an old tee shirt or an old towel for two(2) days to give the chicks good traction to avoid "spradle". When chicks are on a surface that does not provide adequate traction for their feet, they can develop a condition called "spradle". This is a condition where their legs and feet splay to the side thus making it impossible for them to walk correctly.



13. They need a constant heat source with a reflector. Use a screw in light socket and a clip light that can be purchased at a hardware store; a 60-75 watt bulb works well.
 14. Chick starter (medicated baby chick food) and water should available at all times. At the feed stores they have a watering device and the chick starter that can be purchased inexpensively.
 15. Dispose of un-hatched eggs and clean the incubator bottom before returning the equipment. If the bottom is equipped with a plastic liner, be sure to return it too, **they are not disposable**.
16. Homes can be found all chicks or adult birds that you are unable to keep. Please call the office to alert the staff that you will be bringing them in at: 530-889-7385.