

Incubation Period and Incubator Operation for Eggs of Domestic Birds

Requirement	Chicken and Bantam	Turkey	Duck ¹	Muscovy Duck	Goose	Guinea	Pheasant	Peafowl	Bobwhite Quail	Coturnix Quail	Chukar Partridge	Grouse	Ostrich	Emu	Rhea
Incubation Period (days)	21	28	28	35-37	28-34	28	23-28	28-30	23-24	17	23-24	25	42	52	36-40
Forced-Air Operating Temperature ² (degrees F., dry bulb)	99.75	99.25	99.5	99.5	99.25	99.75	99.75	99.25	99.75	99.75	99.75	99.75	97.6	97.6	97.6
Humidity (degrees F., wet bulb)	85-87	83-85	84-86	84-86	86-88	83-85	86-88	83-85	84-86	84-86	80-82	82-86	68-70	74-77	74-77
Do Not Turn Eggs After	19th day	25th day	25th day	31st day	25th day	25th day	21st day	25th day	21st day	15th day	21st day	22nd day	39th day	49 th day	34 th day
Operating Temperature During Last 3 Days of Incubation (degrees F., dry bulb)	99	98.5	98.75	98.75	98.5	99	99	98.5	99	99	99	99	97	97	97
Humidity During Last 3 Days of Incubation (degrees F. wet bulb)	90-94	90-94	90-94	90-94	³ 90-94	90-94	92-95	90-94	90-94	90-94	90-94	90-94	70		
Open Ventilation Holes One-Fourth	10th day	14th day	12th day	15th day	1st day	14th day	12th day	14th day	12th day	8th day	12th day	12th day			
Open Ventilation Holes Further if Needed To Control Temperature	18th day	25th day	25th day	30th day	25th day	24th day	20th day	25th day	20th day	14th day	20th day	21st day			

¹It has been reported that duck eggs hatch better in stiff-air incubators than in forced-air incubators.

²For still-air incubators add 2-30F. to the recommended operating temperatures.

³Better hatchability may be obtained if goose eggs are sprinkled with warm water or dipped in lukewarm water for half a minute each day during the last half of the incubation period.

(Information combined with Coop. Ext. Sev. Cir. 530, from Clemson University, Clemson, SC)