Incubator Rental and Care of Newborn Livestock Guide

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Roadmap

- This presentation will cover how to…
  - Handle fertile eggs before incubating
  - Prepare an incubator
  - Set eggs and care for eggs while incubating
  - Get ready for hatching
  - When to remove hatched chicks
  - Prepare to return rental equipment
  - Care for baby livestock

If you have rented an incubator from us before, please review the entire packet before starting, as our instructions may have changed.

Notes to Parents, Teachers, and Education Staff

- If incubating in a school or public setting…
  - Avoid setting eggs on a Monday or Friday to prevent hatching on a weekend
  - Make a note for any personnel who have access to your room after hours to LEAVE THE INCUBATOR UNDISTURBED AND PLUGGED IN AT ALL TIMES.
- Avoid moving the incubator after setting the eggs to prevent accidental breakage
- Hatching eggs is a science. Though unfortunate, there are uncontrollable factors that can cause a project to fail, and you should be prepared for a possibility where no eggs hatch.

Section 1:
Incubation and Hatching

Note: This section is customized for customers of Goffle Poultry's incubator rental program and may differ from the manufacturer's recommendations.

Planning for a Hatch Date

- Plan accordingly when you want the birds to hatch
  - Chicken eggs take 21 **FULL** days to hatch
  - Though uncommon, the eggs may hatch a day early or late
  - Mark the ideal hatch date on your calendar and work backwards to see when to start incubating.
    - For example, if you start incubating on Wednesday, Wednesday is considered day 21, Thursday is day 20, and so on.

Storing Eggs Before Incubation

DO NOT REFRIGERATE FERTILE EGGS. This will make them unfertile.

For best results, incubate fertile within 7 days after pickup

Prior to starting, store eggs at room temperature but not above 75 F

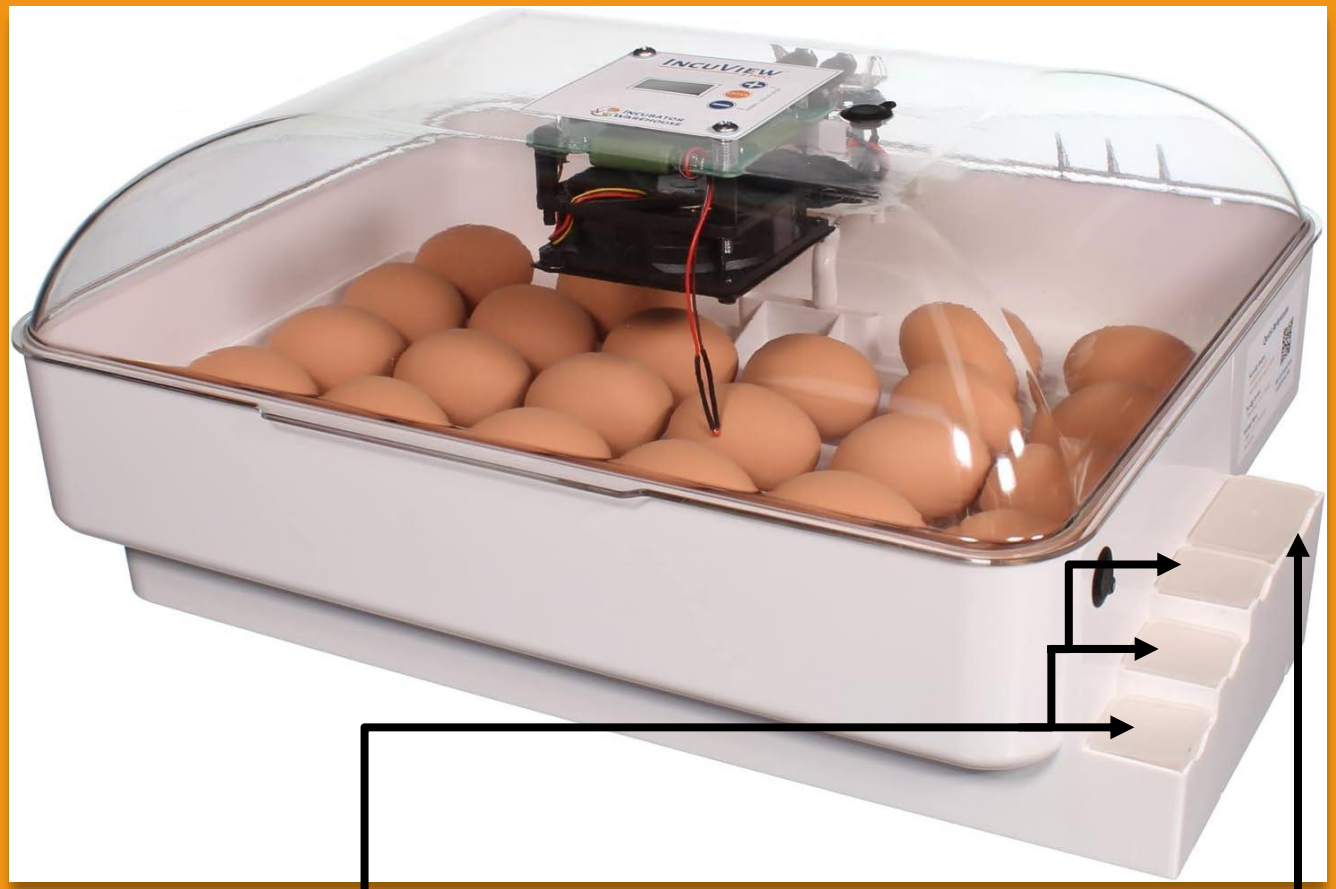
- To prevent the eggs sticking to the shell, turn eggs twice per day until you start incubation

Wash hands before and after handling fertile eggs

DO NOT store fertile eggs in the refrigerator.

Incubator Placement

- The location of the incubator is vital to a successful operation
  - Keep in a room between 70-80° F
  - Keep away from doors, windows, or away from drafty areas
  - Keep out of direct sunlight
  - Keep the incubator level and on a flat table or desk
    - Do not keep on a floor or near a vent



Do not remove the 3 square caps.

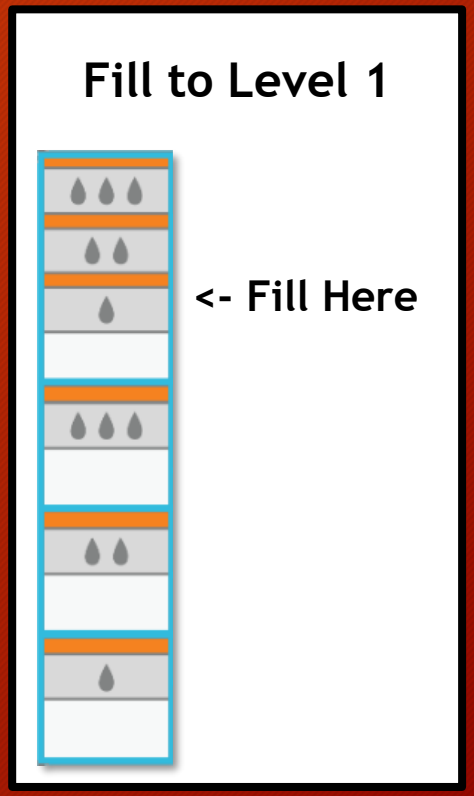
Pour water into rectangular cap reservoir. See next page for instructions

Prepping the Incubator

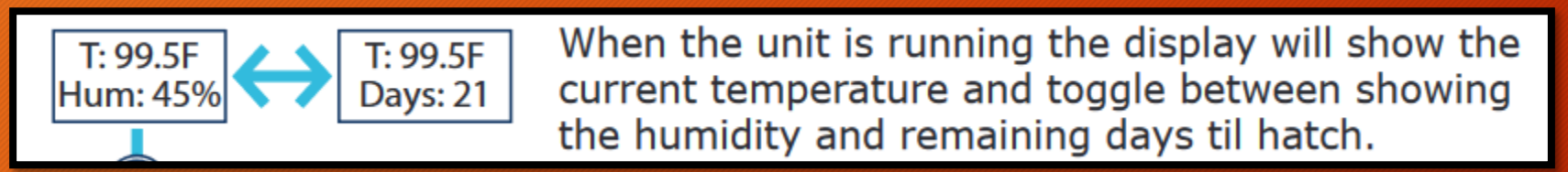
- Make sure there is a piece of scotch tape over the vent hole on the top of the incubator.
  - You may need to remove this tape if the humidity rises too high, and when you are ready to hatch
- Plug the power adapter in the incubator, into the socket labeled “POWER”

Filling the Incubator Reservoirs

- The water reservoirs are on the side of the incubator
- Fill level 1 with room temperature water
  - Reservoir #1 should always be full for the first 18 days of the project; this should maintain a humidity of around 35-55%
  - Keep revivors covered when not in use to reduce humidity loss
  - Pour the water in a well-lit area, so you don't overfill the reservoir
- Do not fill level 2 yet, you will use it later in the project
- Level 3 not needed for this project and should always remain empty



Monitoring Temperature and Humidity



- Rental incubators will be pre-set to 99.5° F by Goffle Poultry
  - Please wait 2-4 hours after temperature stabilizes before setting eggs
- When opening incubator, temperature will drop, but will stabilize back to normal temperature within 15-20 minutes; this is normal
- **DO NOT UNPLUG INCUBATOR AFTER STARTING PROJECT**
  - The incubators are designed to remain powered on until the end of the project; unplugging them can cause complications with hatching

Starting the Project and Setting Eggs

- When the incubator temp is stable, open the lid and set the eggs like below
  - When opening the lid, you may hear a “snap” sound. This is sound of the lid locking in place, and is normal

Setting Eggs

When setting the eggs inside the turning tray it is important to align the eggs parallel to the channels to ensure proper turning.

Note: Eggs may roll end over end or “walk” in the turning tray. This is acceptable and imitates how eggs are turned in nature. If the eggs become bunched simply spread them back out.

Setting the Hatch Date

Once all eggs are set, please follow the instructions in the image below and set hatch timer to 21 days (for chickens)

This is important, because it will stop the turner on the last 3 days

If the incubator is powered off, the hatch timer is saved to memory and will not decrease until the incubator is powered back on

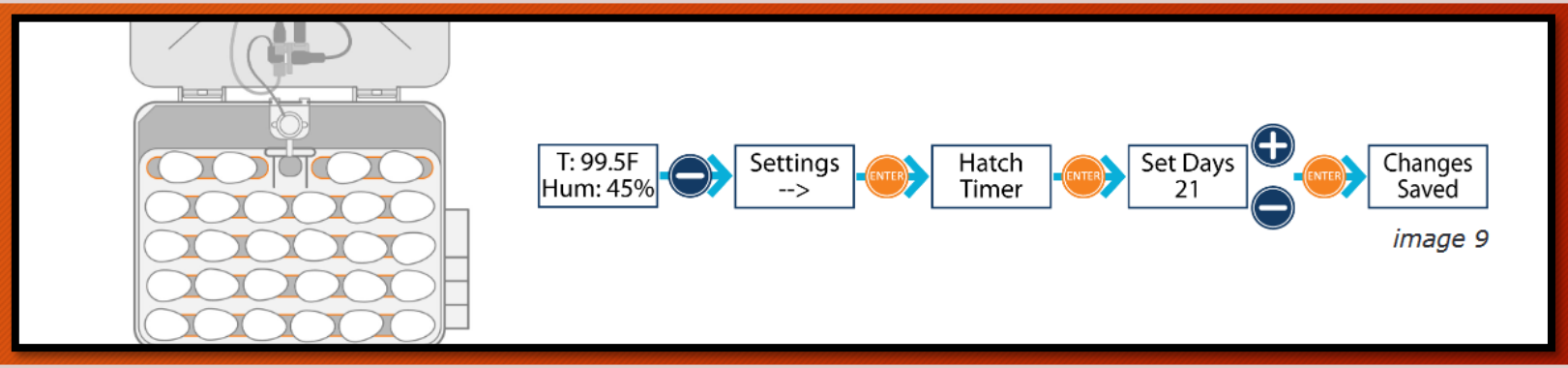


image 9

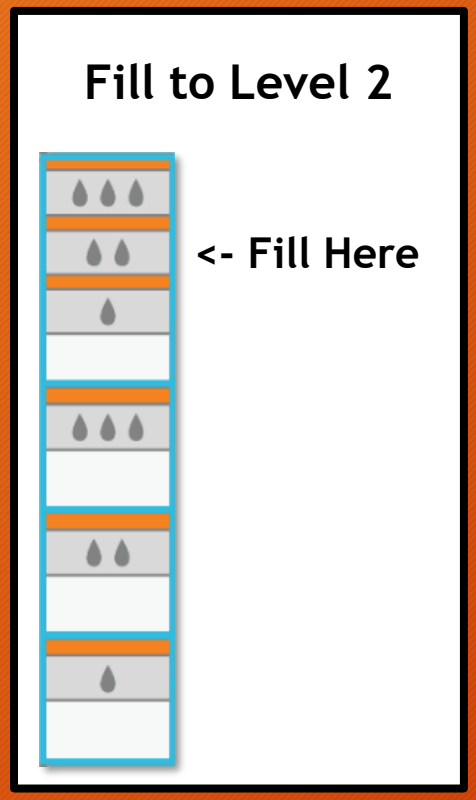
Do not adjust the other settings in the incubator

If you believe the incubator may be set up incorrectly or is not behaving as expected, please contact Goffle Poultry for support

Monitoring Project Through Day 4

- Between the start day through day 4, there little that needs to be done.
- Every few days, verify the following to ensure the incubator is working optimally
  - Monitor that the temperature maintains 99.5 F
  - Water level 1 is saturated, and humidity stays around 35-55%
    - Monitor the reservoirs every 2 days and add water when low or when humidity drops below 35%. When refilling, add about ¼ to ½ cups water, and wait for humidity to stabilize (about 10-15 minutes) before adding more
    - If humidity stays above 55% for extended periods of time, open one of the vent holes on top until humidity decreases. This will drain the water faster
- This incubator will automatically turn the eggs 6 times throughout day; there is no need to manually turn them.

Day 3 until Hatch

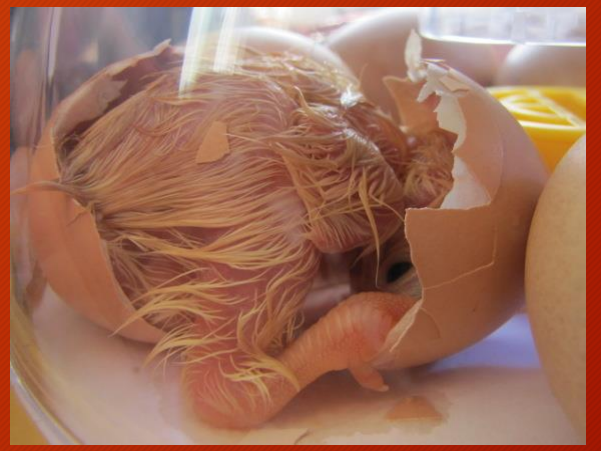


- Three days before the eggs are due to hatch, the incubator turner is programed to stop turning the eggs
- In addition to water level 1, fill level 2 with water
  - Humidity should rise to 60-80%
  - This will soften the shells of the eggs, allowing the chick to break out of their shells
- Remove the tape from the vent hole on the top of the incubator to allow fresh air for the chicks to breathe.

Day 0: Hatching Begins

- On or near the hatch date, you may notice the eggs starting to pip (the first break of the eggshell)
- When chicks begin to hatch, do not assist them in breaking the shell
- Once hatched, do not remove chicks from incubator immediately
  - They will be wet, and may take between 12-48 hours to dry off inside the incubator

This chick is beginning to break out of their shell. It may take up 48 hours to fully break free



This chick was successful in breaking out of its shell

Moving Chicks to a Brooder

This chick is dry and ready to leave incubator

This chick is still wet and should stay in the incubator a little longer

- Once dry, you may move the chicks to a brooder
  - A brooder is a warm and dry area for the baby chicks
    - If you purchases a care package, the box it came in is intended to be used for the first few weeks of life. Remove the contents and layer the bottom with provided bedding.
    - The brooder should always have access to food and water
  - The brooder should have a heat source available
    - A silver reflector clamp light with a 60+ watt incandescent light bulb is sufficient
    - Mount it to the top to avoid contact with the chicks. Aim it towards one corner of the box, allowing the newborns to move in and out of the heat as necessary
- The next section covers care of newborn livestock

Cleaning the Incubator

- When the chicks are finished hatching and removed from the incubator, you may begin cleaning
- Discard any eggshells or unhatched eggs
- Use warm soapy water to rinse the bottom half of the incubator, turner, and liner so no foreign objects are left
  - The top half of the incubator does not need to be rinsed as it contains electrical components that can be damaged by water
- When finished, leave the lid open to dry. Once dry, it can be safely closed

The incubator is full of broken shells after the hatch

End of Incubation Section

- This concludes the incubation section of this presentation
- The next section details how to care for newborn livestock

Section 2: Care of Newborn Livestock

Setting up a Brooder: Bedding

A brooder is a warm and dry area for the baby chicks

- The care package comes in a box that works as a brooder box for the first few weeks of life
- The brooder should have easy access to food and water
- The care package also includes a water dish, a bag of food, and a bag of bedding

Layer the bottom of the box with bedding

- Change the bedding whenever it gets soiled or has an odor
- The box should last between 1-2 weeks before it should be thrown away. By then, you should have a new box or anything reusable like a plastic tub or large glass fish tank which can be cleaned

Overhead example of a brooder box

Setting up a Brooder: Food and Water

- Set the food in any bowl with a low-lip that chicks can reach into.
- To set up the water bottle, fill up the water to the top, then screw on the lid.
  - Turn over the bottle quickly, and it will refill itself if there is water in the bottle.
- Make sure to place the food and water in a corner of the brooder.
- Water and food should always be available.

An example of a low-lip food dish

Making a Brooder Box: Part 3

- The brooder should have a heat source available
  - If kept indoors, A silver reflector clamp light with an incandescent light bulb of 60 watt or greater
  - It should be mounted to the top of the box and aimed at the opposite corner away from the food and water allowing the newborns to move in and out of warmth as needed
  - The clamp light and incandescent light bulb is not included as part of the care package; it can be purchased separately
    - Otherwise, you may use one from your basement or garage if it has the correct light bulb

A silver reflector clamp light

An incandescent blub.

Fluorescent and LED bulbs do not provide enough heat for baby chicks.

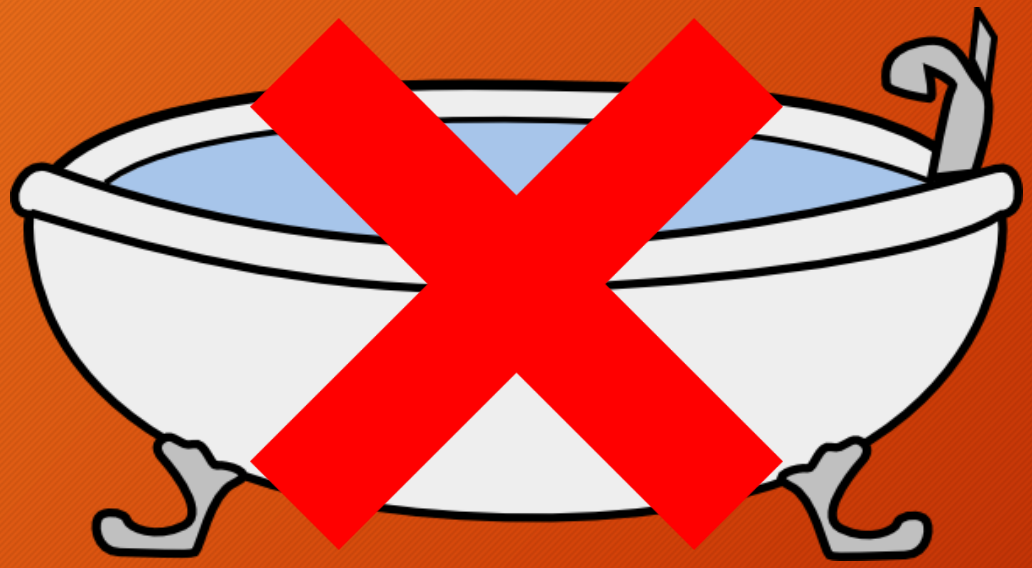
Keeping Warm

This chick is enjoying the warmth

- New born livestock requires these temperatures during growth periods:
  - Week 1 - above 90° F
    Week 2 - above 80° F
    Week 3 - above 70° F
- The newborns will travel under or away from the heat source as its temperature reaches comfort level
- If you notice the chicks are cold and huddled together, try placing the clamp light closer to the surface of the box
- Alternatively, if the chicks are spending most of their time away from the light, it usually means they are too hot; try moving the clamp light away from the surface of the box

Health and Safety

- Do not bathe or put baby chicks into a full bathtub or sink
  - The chicks are still young, and could start chilling when they get below comfort temperatures



- When handling baby livestock, wash your hands afterwards with soap and water to prevent transmission of bacteria
- Keep children under supervision when handling baby livestock
- Avoid handling livestock near one's face of mouth

Closing

- If you have any questions, you can reach us at (201)444-3238, and we will do our best to answer your questions
- Thank you for reading and we hope you enjoy your project