

the eighteenth night. Most incubators evaporate the egg too much. This means a smaller, weaker, and oftentimes deformed chick.

In a cold room in early spring the eggs will stand a higher temperature, 104 degrees on hang-up instead of 103 degrees. Contact thermometer (those that rest on the eggs) should remain at 103 degrees. Contact thermometers should not be moved all over the machine, but kept approximately in one place.

After testing the eggs, those trays that are flat should have laths or sticks placed loosely each side of the eggs to prevent rolling and probable damage when trays are lifted.

Never use top of incubator for turning eggs on trays, unless top is big enough to accommodate tray entirely. Better to use table. The tray should never overhang, as eggs thus exposed get cooled much faster.

Remember the colder the room the quicker the evaporation.

Don't expect an incubator to give 100 per cent. hatch from eggs from unthrifty stock.

Keep all hatching-eggs from frost and mustiness.

Nest-litter needs to be changed frequently.

Eggs can be incubated after males of heavy-weight classes have been mated ten days, and light-weight (Leghorns, Auconas, Hamburgs, Camplines, etc.) after seven days. Bright sunny days are very favourable for breeding purposes.

If incubator tray of eggs is left out by mistake, don't get alarmed. Put back in machine, and do not turn or open door of machine for at least twenty-four hours.

If lamp goes out, follow out advice given in preceding paragraph.

See that lamp-wick is renewed at each hatching. This is very important.

Trim wick and fill lamp late afternoon. Will ensure a steady flame during the night.

It is advisable to replace the burlap or screen in nursery compartment if it gets dirty. It is better than washing it.

If heating incubator by coal-stove, the addition of a little coke to the coal will work wonders, especially if the coal is slaty. Coke should never be put on until the fire is burning brightly.

Don't take chicks out of machine too soon, and when removing to brooder, see that basket or box is lined with warm cloth or blanket.

NATURAL INCUBATION.

When starting to set hen, try warming the nest egg or eggs, especially if you move hen at night to strange nest.

In early spring eleven or twelve hens' eggs are sufficient for a medium-sized hen to cover.

It is poor policy to use old and dirty nest-boxes. Burn up old boxes, and use clean ones each year. The bigger the nest-box, less chance of hen crushing eggs or chicks.

When using earth in bottom of nest, be certain to provide good depth of soft litter. Occasionally cold damp soil will chill the eggs.

Don't allow hen to sit too long without a "rest." She should be lifted off daily.

Shells from hatched eggs should be crushed up and fed hens.

Fowls fed plenty of greenstuff are more likely to lay eggs that will hatch strong chicks, especially if the breeding stock has plenty of range.

Thrifty breeding stock, properly housed, well fed, especially the male bird, means strong chicks.

Keep track of your hatches. The Department supplies record forms for incubators, also sitting hens. Sent free on receipt of postal.

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