**Embryology Instructions**

**Incubating Eggs**

* Maintain the temperature around 100ºF. Steady temperature is important. Do not constantly adjust the temperature.
	+ If the incubator is not keeping a steady temperature, call the Extension Office.
	+ When eggs are first placed in the incubator, they take several hours to heat up. Do not immediately adjust the temperature in the incubator.
* Refill pans or troughs with warm water.
	+ Always keep water in the trough. Humidity is very important for a successful hatch.
* Turn the eggs three times a day.
	+ The third day is very important.
	+ Work quickly when turning the eggs.
* Day 18
	+ Turn and rotate the eggs.
	+ Fill the troughs with warm water.
	+ Close the incubator and do not open it again until the chicks hatch.

**Hatching Chicks**

* Chicks will begin pipping around the twenty-first day of incubation.
* Be patient!
* It could take a chick anywhere from 1 hour to 24 hours to get out of the shell. (If any chick takes longer than 24 hours to hatch, call the Extension Office.)
* Leave the chicks in the incubator until they dry off.
* Don’t remove hatched chicks while other eggs are pipping.
	+ Chicks hatch with a two-day built-in food supply, so they can go for about three days without eating after they hatch.
* After the chicks are hatched:
	+ Remove the hatched chicks from the incubator and place them in a heated box.
	+ The heated box should contain a 40-watt light bulb placed 8–10 inches from the bottom of the box, away from the sides of the box.
	+ Optimum temperature for the chicks during their first week of life is 95ºF.

(Name) (Title)

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