

Incubation Time for B.U.T. Strains

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Definition

- Incubation time is the period from setting the eggs into the incubator to pulling the poult out of the hatcher.
- Strain, breeder flock age and length of pre-incubation egg storage can affect incubation length.
- Incubation length will also be affected by incubation environment and season.

Objectives

- To adjust setting times according to breeder flock age and length of egg storage to ensure that all poult hatch together.
- To help optimise hatchability and poult quality.

Procedure

- The normal incubation periods for eggs from a peak production breeder flock with eggs stored for less than 6 days are:
- B.U.T. 6 egg 27 days 18 hours
- B.U.T. 8 / B.U.T. 9 egg 27 days 12 hours
- The above incubation times need to be adjusted for flock age and egg storage as shown below:

Days of Storage	Weeks in Lay:		
	0 - 3	4 - 10	11 - 20
0 - 5	+3 hours	0	+3 hours
6 - 10	+4 hours	+2 hours	+4 hours
11 plus	+7 hours	+5 hours	+7 hours

Other factors may also affect incubation time:

- Season; hot weather can speed up incubation time.
- Pre-warming; if eggs are pre-warmed prior to incubation they will achieve an incubation temperature more quickly after setting and so reduce incubation time.
- Incubation temperature, humidity and ventilation. Fast or slow hatch times are a useful indicator of incorrect incubation environment.
- When the poult are removed from the hatcher they should be neither too fresh nor too old. The age of the poult can be evaluated by measuring poult yield.

Related Management Advice Sheets

- a. [Pre-warming Eggs Before Setting](#)
- b. [Measuring Poults Yield](#)

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