

# Pre-warming Eggs before Setting

Aviagen Turkeys Ltd ®

## DEFINITION

Pre-warming involves moving the eggs out of the egg store at 15°C (59°F) into a temperature of between 20 – 25°C (68 - 77°F) for a period of at least 10 hours before setting the eggs into the incubator at 37.5°C (99.5°F).

## OBJECTIVES

Raising the egg temperature from the egg store to incubation as a two-step process has several advantages:

- To produce a more uniform start to incubation within a set by reducing the amount of temperature increase when eggs are placed in the incubator.
- In multistage machines, to reduce the chilling effect of setting cold eggs on the eggs already within the incubator.
- Pre-warming helps to limit the amount of condensation on the eggs.

## PROCEDURE

Move the eggs out of the egg store between 10 – 18 hours before they are due to be set.

The eggs can be held in either a specially constructed pre-warming room or the incubation room at 20 – 25°C (68 - 77°F).

In some single-stage incubators it is possible to pre-warm the eggs within the setter at 25°C (77°F) using special programmes – please see manufacturer's instructions.

Moving air around the eggs can reduce the time required to pre-warm the eggs.

High humidity (> 50 %RH) in the pre-warming room can result in condensation forming on the eggs.

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