

Egg Storage

Aviagen Turkeys Ltd ®



Definition

- Eggs are routinely stored before incubation for between 2 to 7 days with minimal impact on hatching success.
- Incubating eggs on the day that they are laid or, to a lesser extent, after one day of storage can depress hatchability.
- Extending egg storage beyond 7 days will result in lower hatchability, the longer the storage the greater the effect.
- The age of a breeder flock affects the ability of eggs to withstand long egg storage. Eggs from young (< 5 weeks) or old (> 15 weeks) breeder flocks are less able to tolerate long egg storage.

Objectives

1. To provide eggs during storage with the optimum environment to minimise hatch loss.

Procedure

- Eggs should be stored at 14 – 15°C (57 - 59°F). If storage is likely to be less than 5 days, storage temperature can be increased to 17 – 18°C (63 - 65°F). For long egg storage (> 10 days) the store temperature should be reduced to 12 – 13°C (54 - 56°F).
- The humidity in the egg store should be kept between 70 – 80 %RH. Make sure that humidification equipment does not wet the eggs.
- Eggs stored for more than 5 days have longer incubation times.
- Cool eggs to store temperature as quickly as possible after collection and sanitation. Allow air to circulate around the eggs while they are cooling. It will take the eggs approximately 1 day to completely cool.
- Do not store eggs directly in front of heaters, coolers or humidifiers.
- The use of gentle air fans can improve the uniformity of the temperature and humidity in the store. Similarly, keep doors closed and minimise the amount of air moving in and out of the room.
- Several techniques have been found to improve the hatchability of eggs stored for more than 10 days:
 - Storing the eggs under plastic covers (only once they are cooled).
 - Turning the eggs during storage.

- Storing eggs upside down – care needs to be taken to prevent cracking.
- Heating the eggs to 37.5°C (99.5°F) for 12 hours prior to storage.
- It is good practice to record store temperature and humidity at least twice daily.
- Ensure all eggs are correctly identified with the day of production so that the oldest eggs are set before the youngest eggs.

The contents of this Management Article are © Aviagen Turkeys. As performance can be affected by various factors existing in particular operations, these objectives or advice cannot and should not be regarded as a form of guarantee and Aviagen Turkeys Limited accepts no liability in relation to your use of this information

Aviagen Turkeys Ltd.

Chowley Five, Chowley Oak Business Park, Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9GA

Tel: +44 (0)1829 772020 **Fax:** +44 (0)1829 772059

Web: www.aviagenturkeys.com

