

# THE INCUBATOR COMPANY

**JAMESWAY**



# Assessing Embryo Mortality to Improve Incubation



11th Bi-Annual International  
Pheasant Management Seminar  
March 5-7, 2018

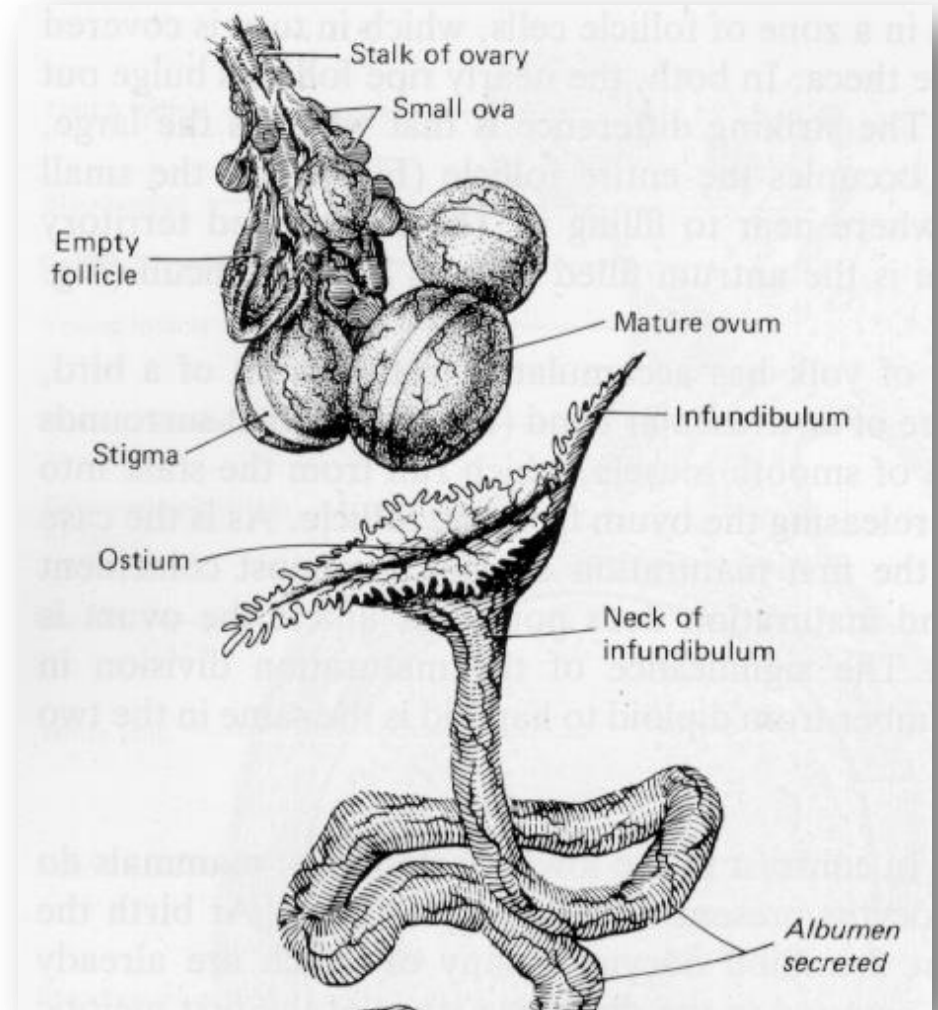
Presented by  
R. Keith Bramwell, PhD  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Jamesway Incubator Company

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# Fertilization Process

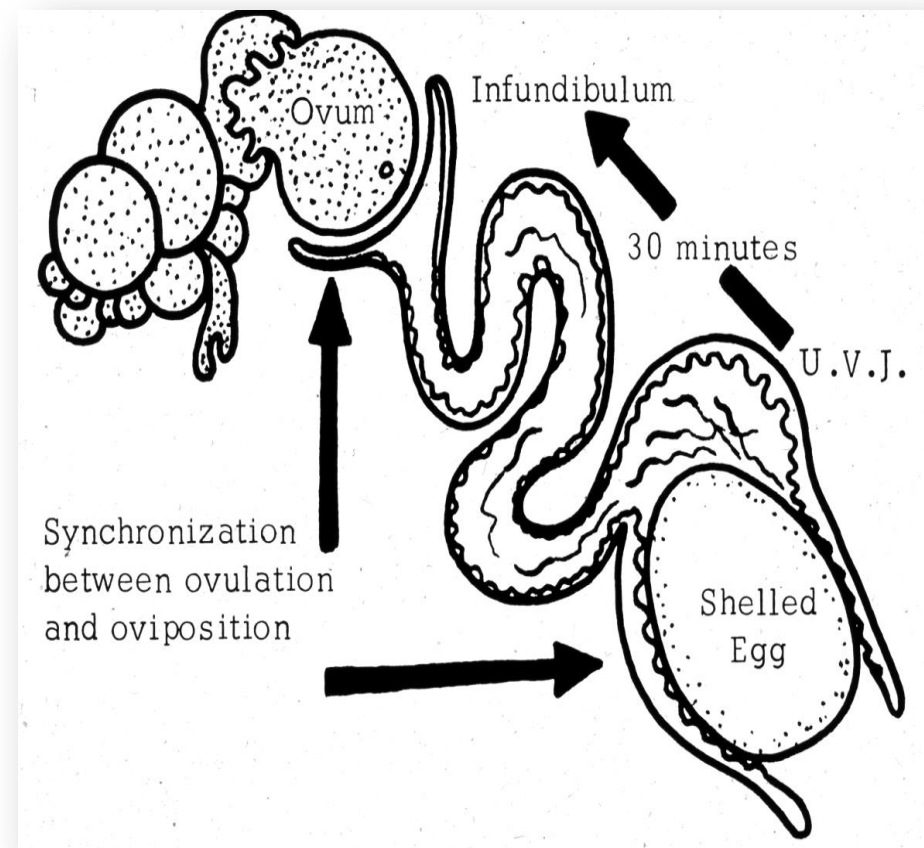
- Location - Infundibulum
- Funnel shaped – acts to engulf ovum





# Fertilization Process

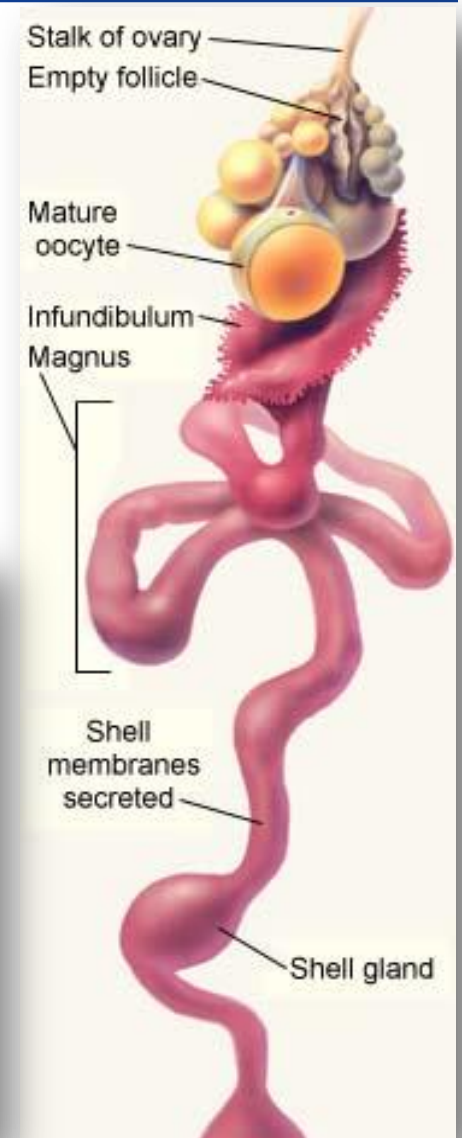
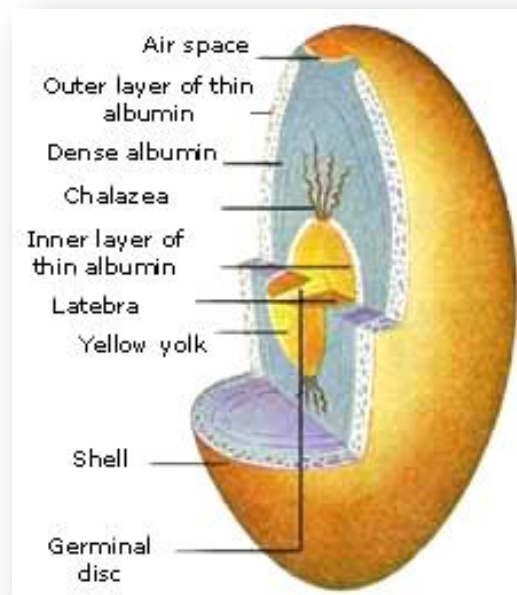
- Fertilization occurs < 5 minutes after ovulation
- Capture of ova is not necessarily a result of ovulation
- Ova present ~ 15 minutes (in chickens)





# Fertilization Process

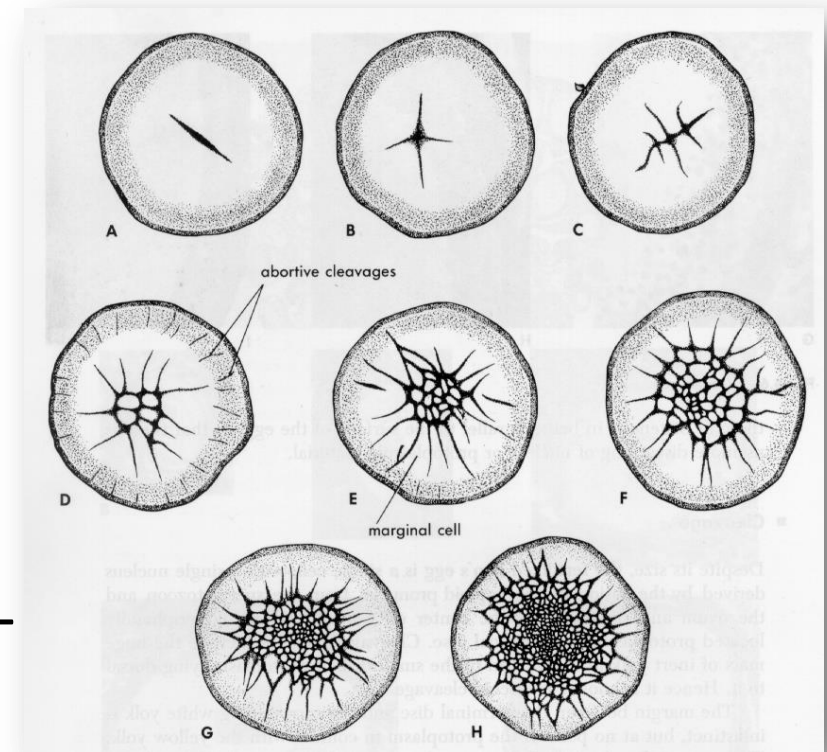
- Shell formation:  
24-26 hours to complete
- Hen's body temperature:  
40 - 41° C





# Fertilization Process

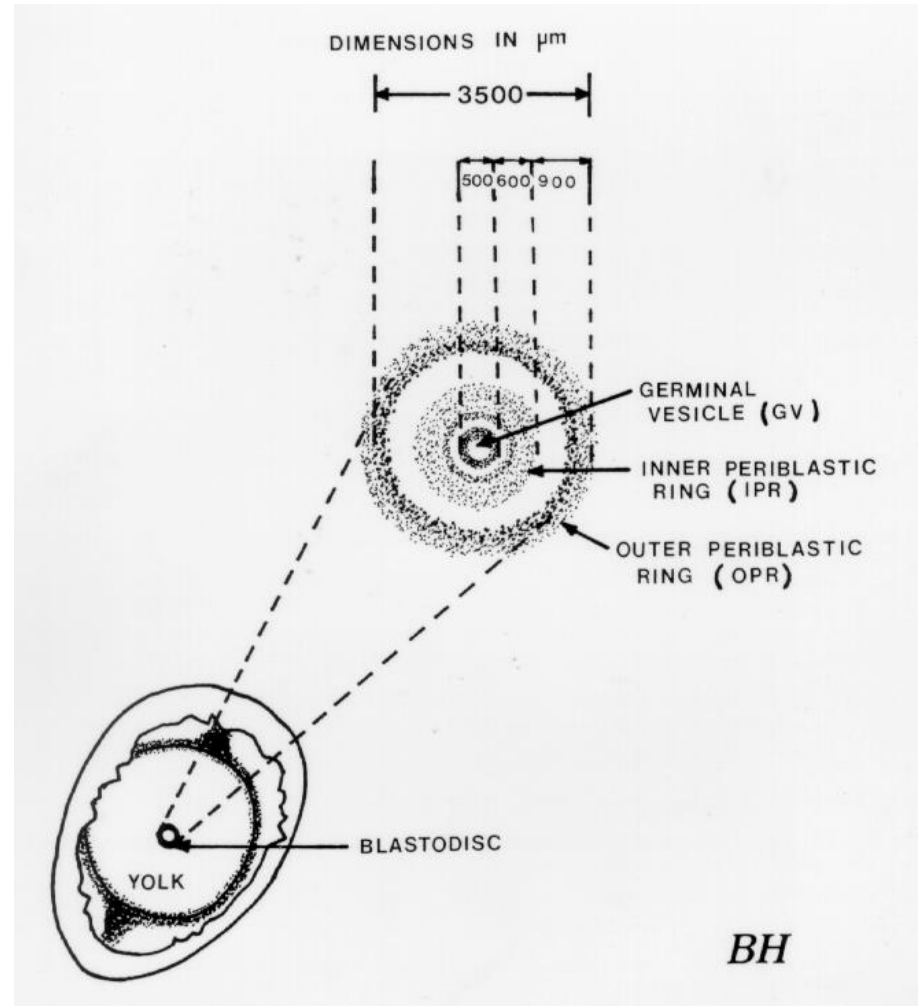
- Fertilization occurs within 5 minutes after ovulation
- Shell formation takes 24-26 hours to complete
- Hen's body temperature 40 - 41° C
- Laid egg represents 1 days embryonic growth (20,000 - 40,000 cells)





# Germinal Disc (Blastodisc)

Site of fertilization and  
initial stages of embryo  
development







# Infertile vs Fertile Eggs



**Infertile egg**

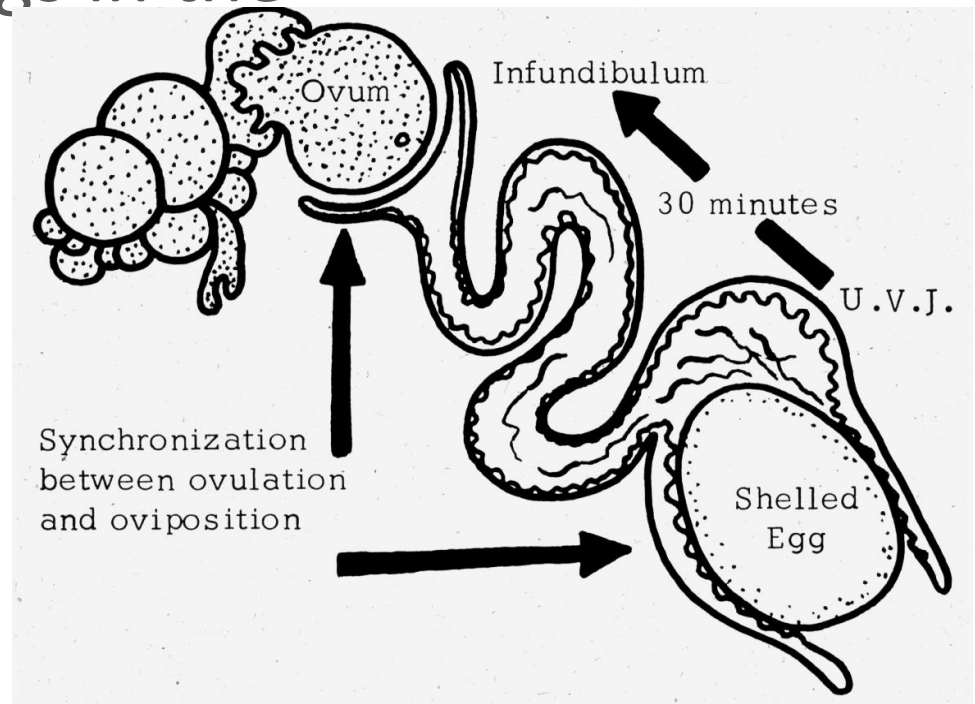
**Fertile egg**





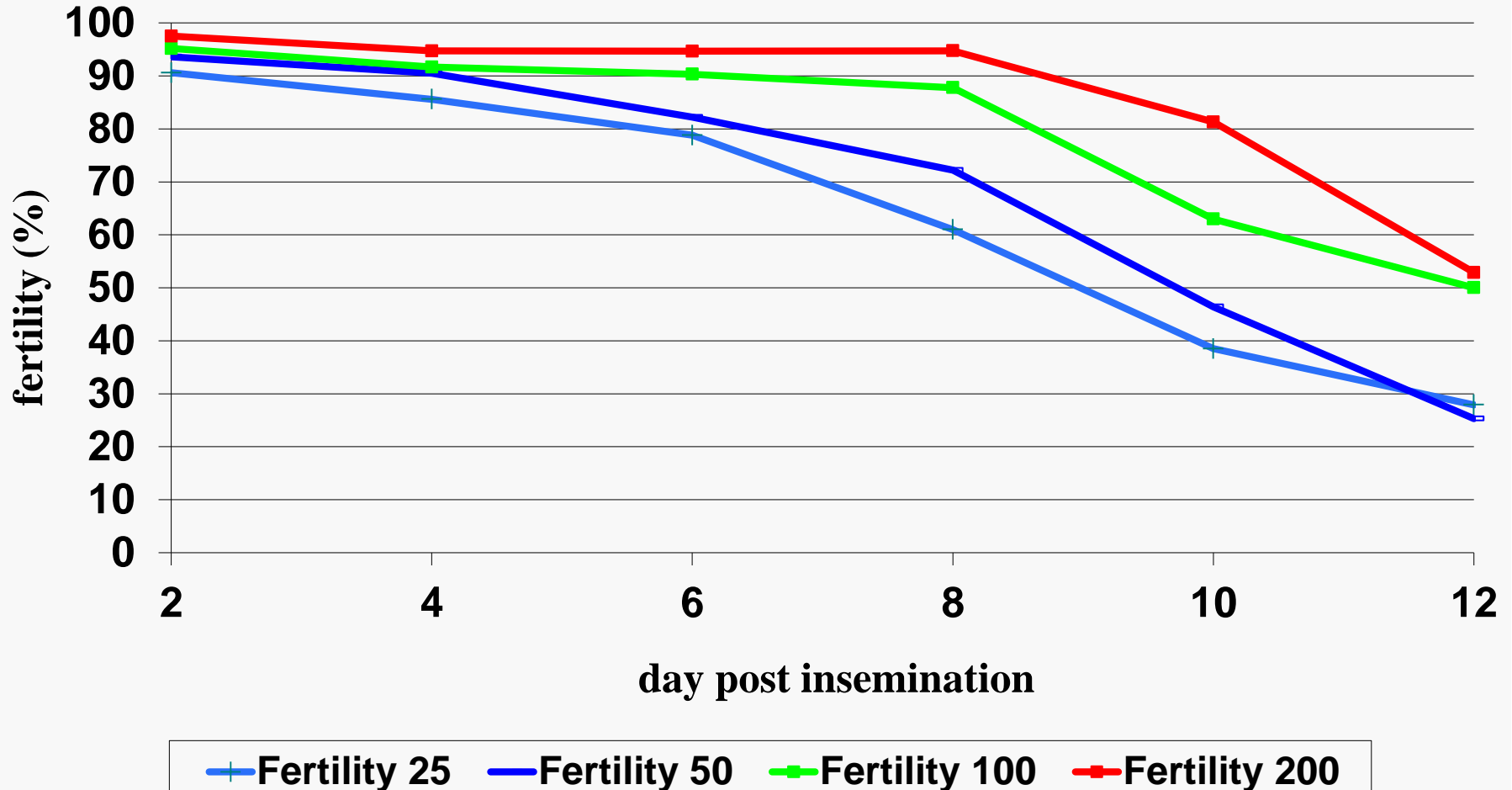
# Sperm Cell Storage

- A biological necessity to produce fertile eggs in the avian system



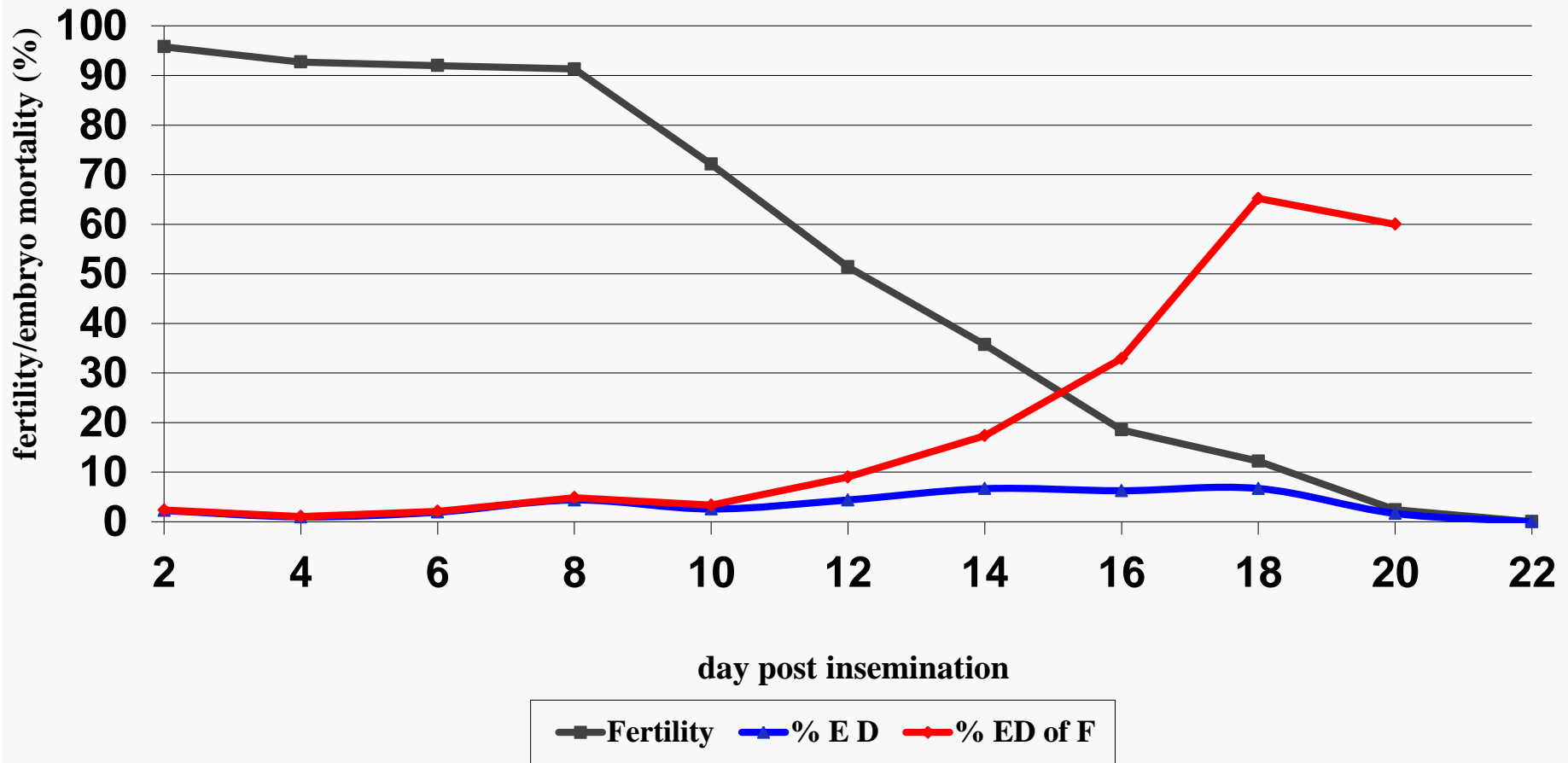


# Fertility & Embryonic Mortality





# Fertility & Embryonic Mortality





# Methodology of Embryodiagnosis

- Important for managers to have direct knowledge of breakout results
  - Managers should monitor candling and breakout procedure routinely and correlate with people doing breakout
  - Best if managers can assist on breakouts, especially when problems exist or decisions are to be made based on breakout
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# Flock Examination & Record Keeping

- Breakout analysis of a sample of unhatched eggs and record incidences of:
    - Infertile eggs
    - Dead embryos in one of the 3 - 5 stages
    - Pips
    - Cull chicks and cull eggs
    - Farm & transfer cracks
    - Contamination
    - Misplaced eggs (small end up)
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# Flock Examination & Record Keeping

- Determine percent weight loss from samples of eggs
    - Weigh eggs prior to incubation
    - Weigh eggs at transfer
    - Calculate weight loss (moisture)
      - Ideal range    0.6 - 0.65 % per day
      - Acceptable    0.55 - 0.7 % per day
-





# Trouble Shooting Hatchery Problems

- Can the problem be identified with:
    - Specific flocks or flock ages?
    - Specific setters, hatchers or other equipment?
    - Any unusual weather patterns?
    - Seasonal changes?
    - Recent changes in management practices or personnel?
-



# Trouble Shooting Hatchery Problems

- Does the problem persist?
  - Do you know what is *normal*, or what should be expected?
  - How has this same bird or combination performed in the past?
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# Action Plan

- Accurate egg break-out
    - Hatchery manager & supervisor involvement
  - Standard summary
  - Analysis of data
  - Action plan of correction
  - Use information as a management tool
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# Embryology Staging and Development

- A Series of Normal Stages in the Development of the Chick Embryo.
    - **V. Hamburger & H.L. Hamilton**, *Journal of Morphology*, (1951)
  - The Avian Embryo. Structural and Functional Development.
    - **A.L. Romanoff**, New York (& London), (1960)
-



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# Embryology Staging and Development

- Vertebrate Embryology: The Dynamics of Development.
    - R. Pugh, Harcourt, Brace & World, (1964)
  - Avian Growth and Development: Evolution Within-Altricial-Precocial Spectrum.
    - J.M. Starck and R.E. Ricklefs, Oxford Press, (1998)
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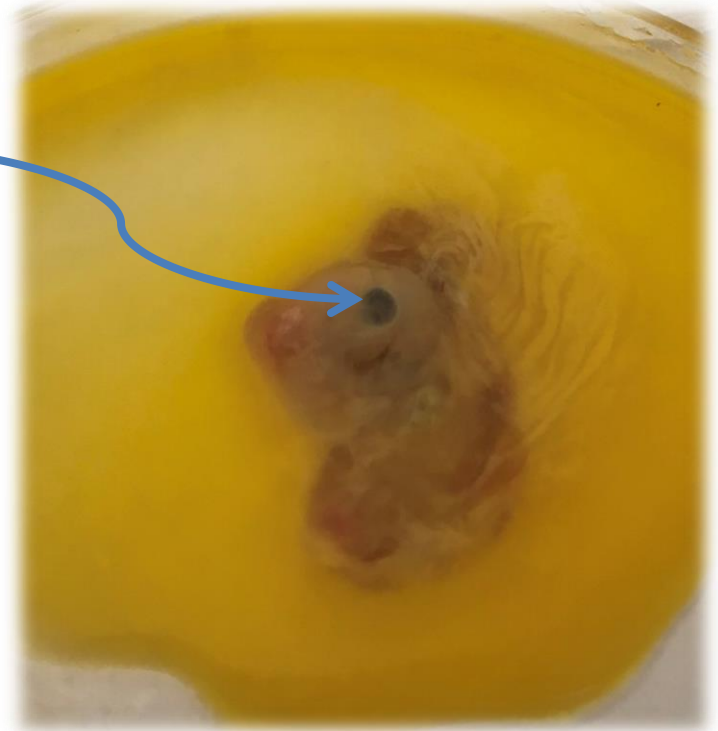
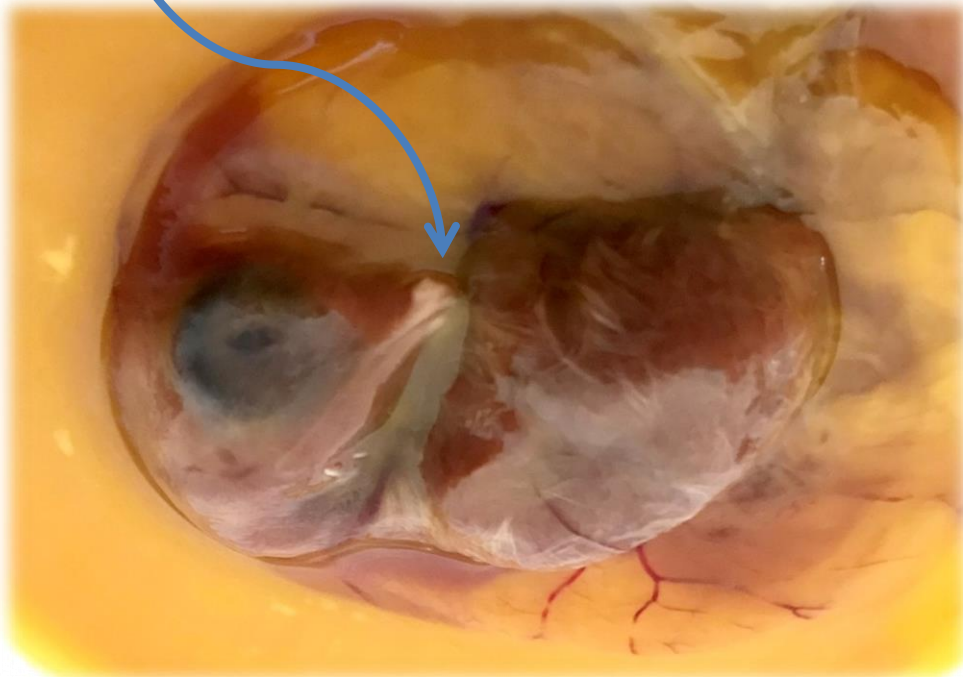
# Key Factors in Embryo Development

- Fertile egg – Donut shaped germinal disc
- Day 4 – Eye pigmentation ***Prominent***
- Day 8 – Egg tooth present and ***Prominent***



**Pigmented Eye**

**Egg Tooth**





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# Key Factors in Embryo Development

- Fertile egg – Donut shaped germinal disc
  - Day 4 – Eye pigmentation ***Prominent***
  - Day 8 – Egg tooth present and ***Prominent***
  - Day 18 – Chick down ***Prominent***
  - Day 22 – Yolk sac withdrawn into body
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## What is Acceptable or 'Normal'?

- This is a *biological system*, therefore:
  - Fertility? 100% is NOT possible!
  - Hatch of Fertile? 100% is NOT possible!
  - Hatchability? 100% is NOT possible!
  - Chick Quality? 100% perfect is NOT possible!
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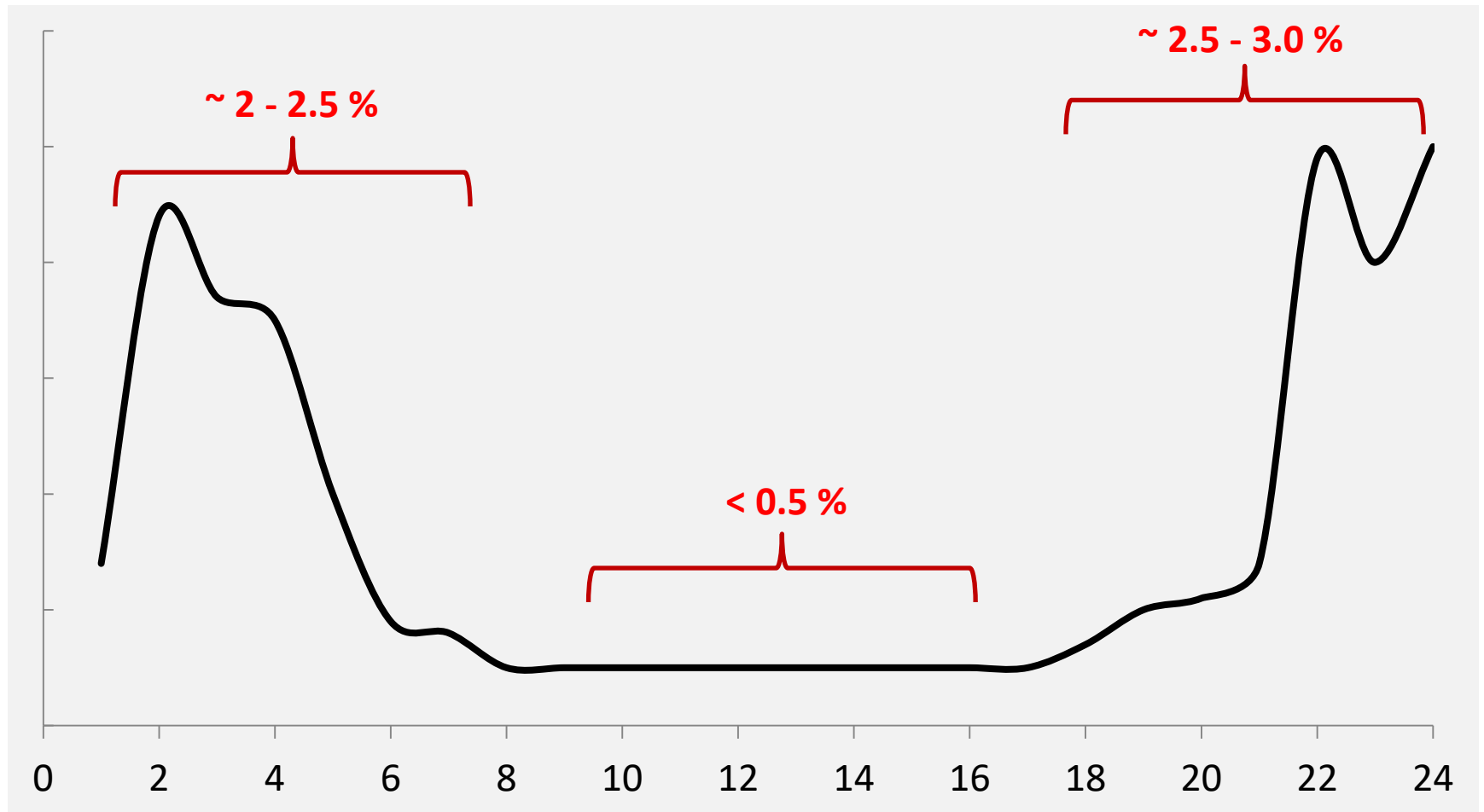
## What is Acceptable or 'Normal'?

- This is a *biological system*, therefore:
  - Expect mortality, losses are unavoidable
  - Fertility? 1-2% infertile
    - Dependant on breed (strain), age of flock, health status of breeders, etc.
  - Embryo mortality? 4-5% **total** embryo loss
    - Dependant on breed (strain), age of flock, fertility, egg age, egg storage conditions (transport), *and* of course incubation conditions
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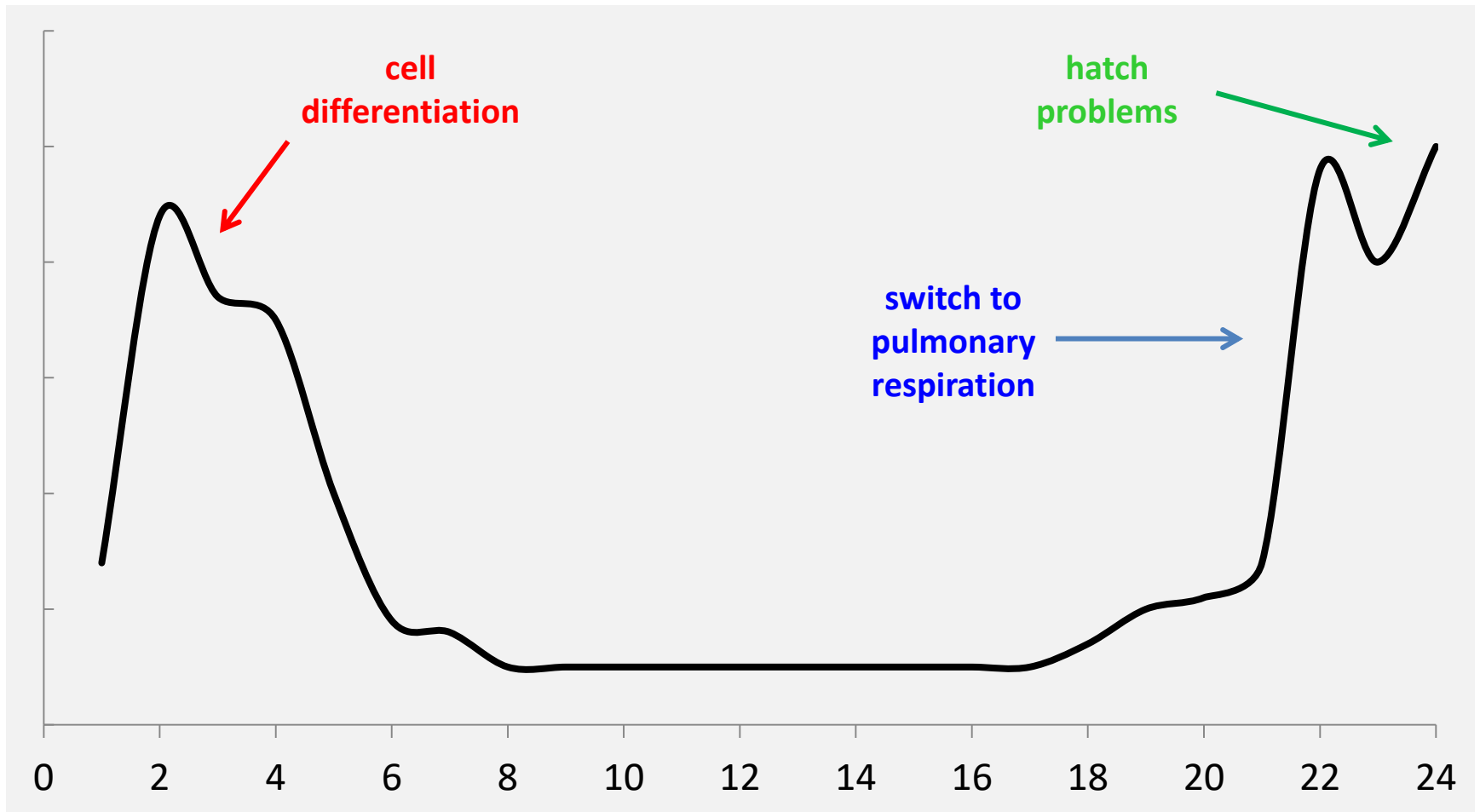


# Percent Mortality of Fertile Eggs





# Percent Mortality of Fertile Eggs





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# Embryonic Mortality Pattern

- 1-7 days (1 - 3 days)
    - ~ 2.5 %
    - Blood & circulation system developing
  - **Cell differentiation**
  - Potential causes
    - Poor egg handling (gathering & storage)
    - Aged flocks (infrequent mating)
    - Incubator problems?
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# Embryonic Mortality Pattern

- 8 -17 days
    - ~ 0.5%
  - Potential causes
    - Breeder nutrition
      - Riboflavin
      - Vitamin B12
      - Manganese
      - Pantothenic acid
    - Incubator problems
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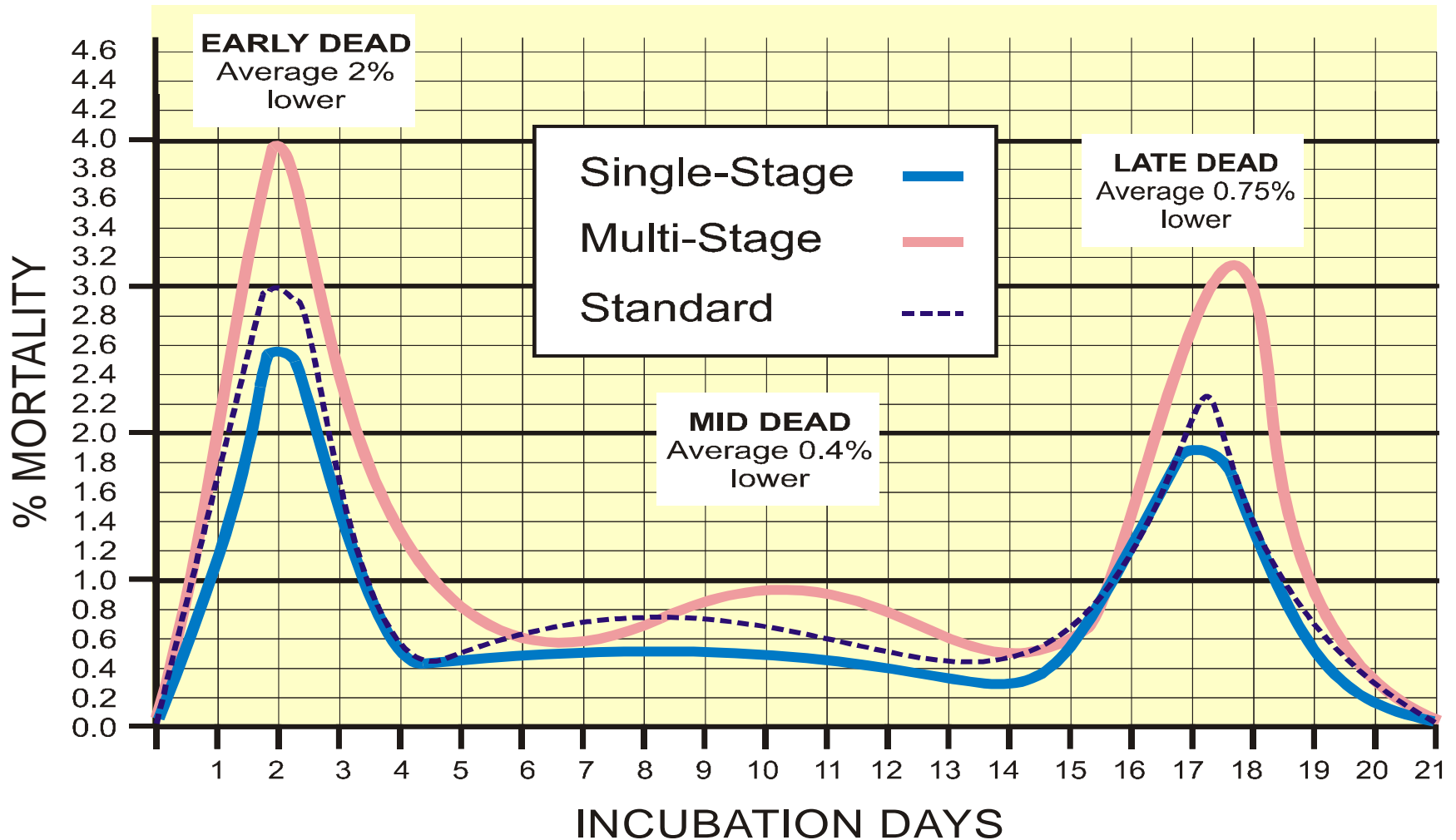
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# Embryonic Mortality Pattern

- 18-24 days
    - ~ 2.5 %
    - **Switch to pulmonary respiration**
  - Potential causes
    - Incubation problems
      - Temperature, humidity, turning, pull time
    - Aged flocks (shell quality, etc)
    - Contamination
    - Egg orientation
-



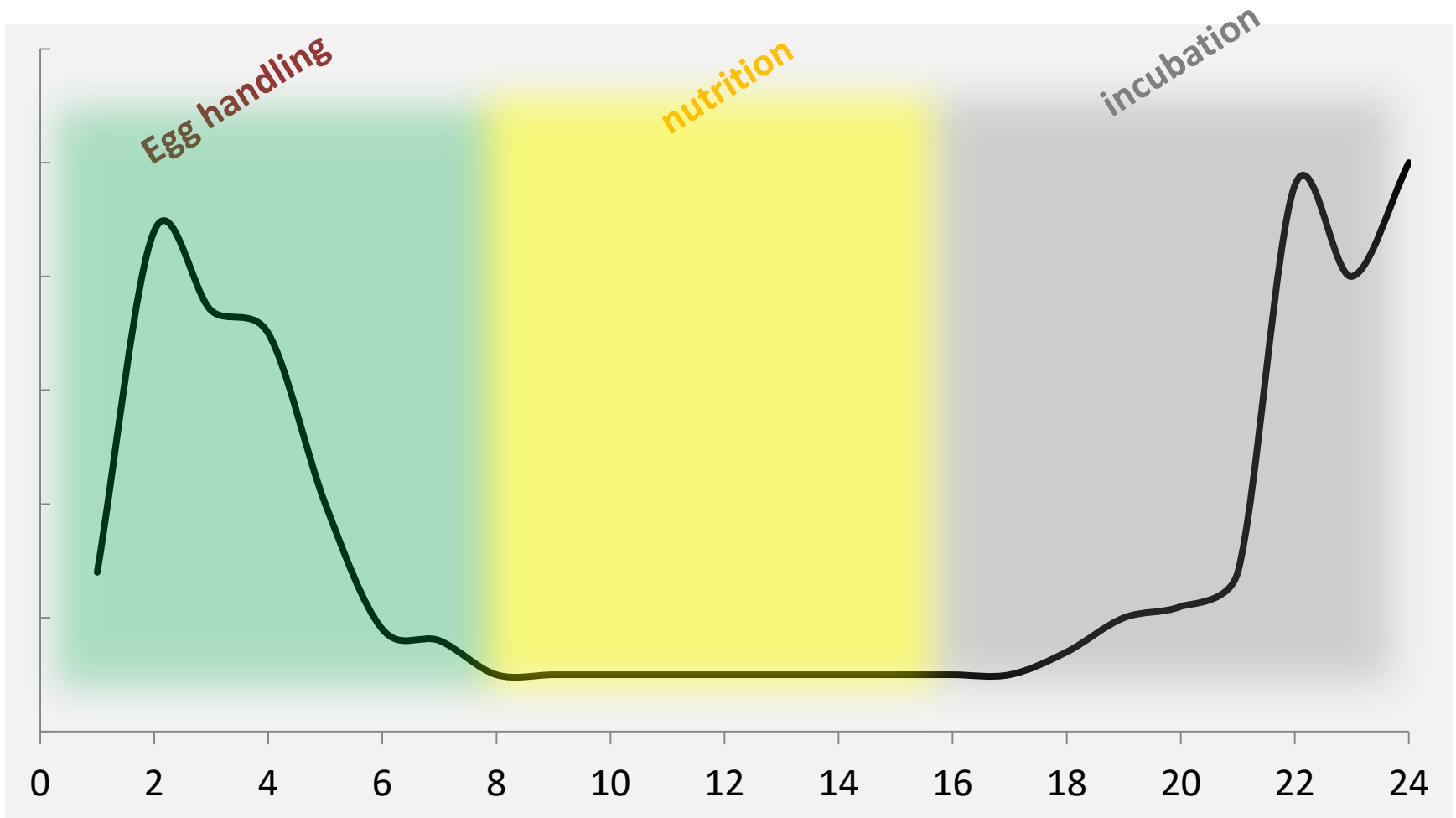
# Typical Embryo Mortality Trend







# Percent Mortality of Fertile Eggs





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# Fertile vs. Infertile

- Do not classify abnormal conditions as fertile
    - Blood spots (not blood ring remnants)
    - Meat spots
    - Mottled yolks
    - Contamination (esp. Yeast)
    - Chalaza
-



# Infertile vs Fertile Eggs



**Infertile egg**

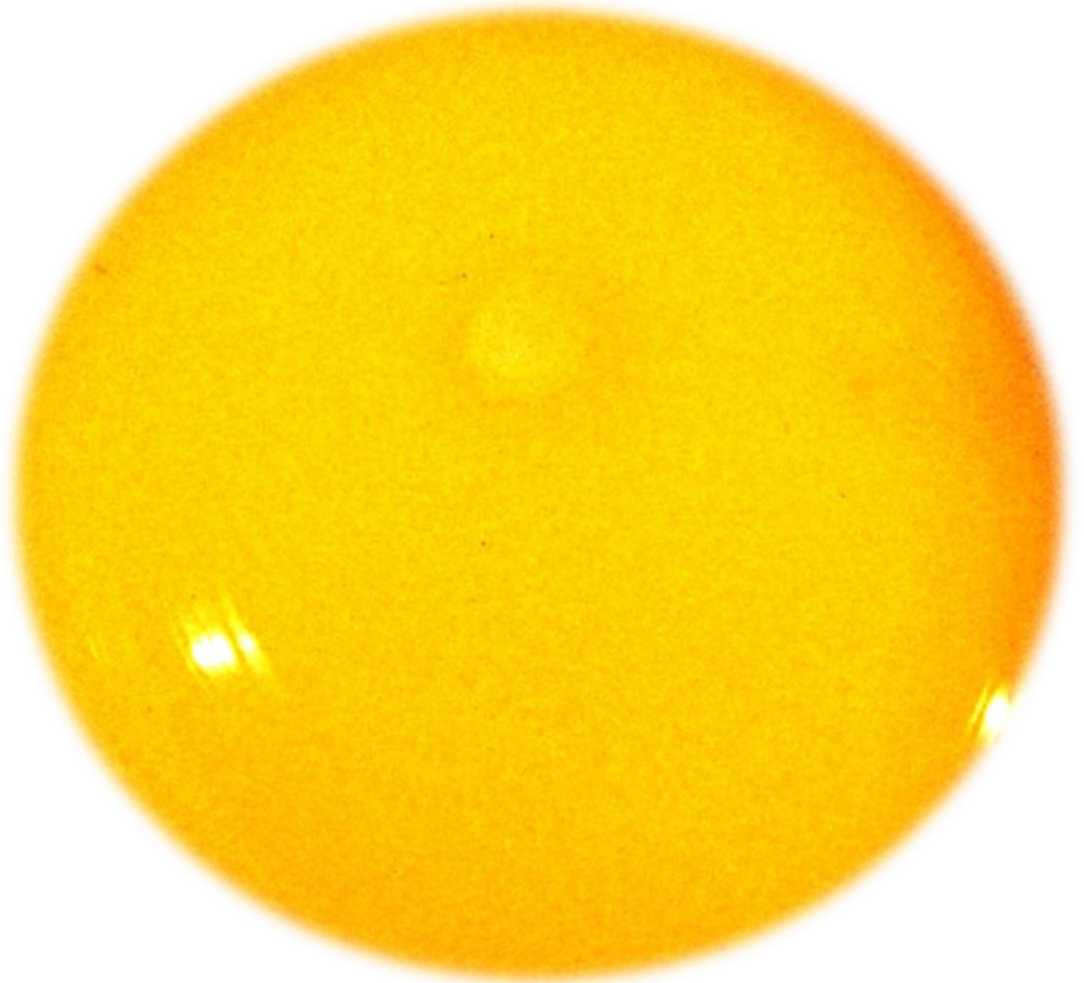
**Fertile egg**



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# Fertile Eggs

- Fertile germinal disc

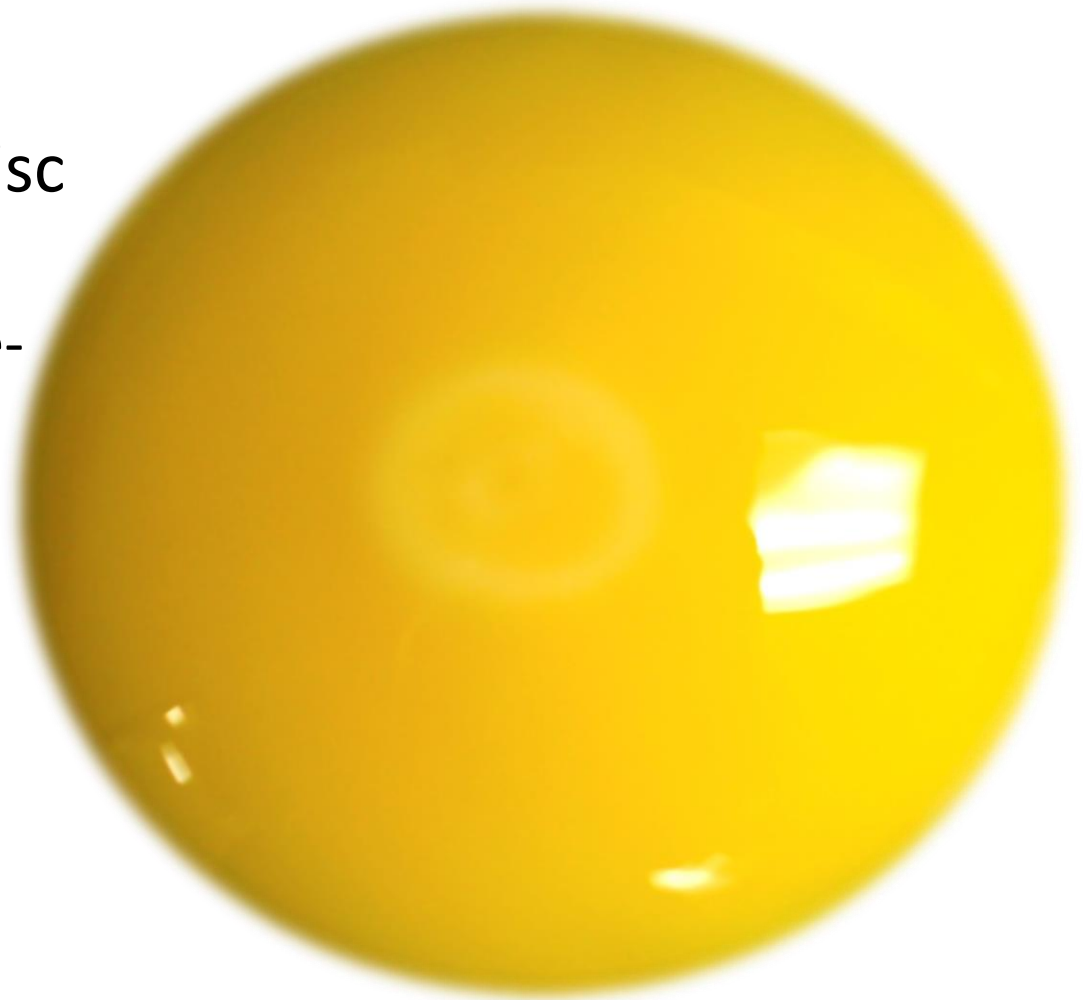




# Fertile Eggs

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- Fertile germinal disc
  - Shows some pre-incubation, or pre-development
- 12 hours of development





# Fertile Eggs

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- 24 hours of development







# Infertile Eggs

## Embryonic Development

- No development



## Troubleshooting Guide

- **DECREASED MATING FREQUENCY**
- Males and females with abnormal sperm or egg
  - Both occur in young or old
- Nutritional deficiencies, excesses
  - Severe feed restriction
- Certain drugs, pesticides, chemicals, toxins, mycotoxins



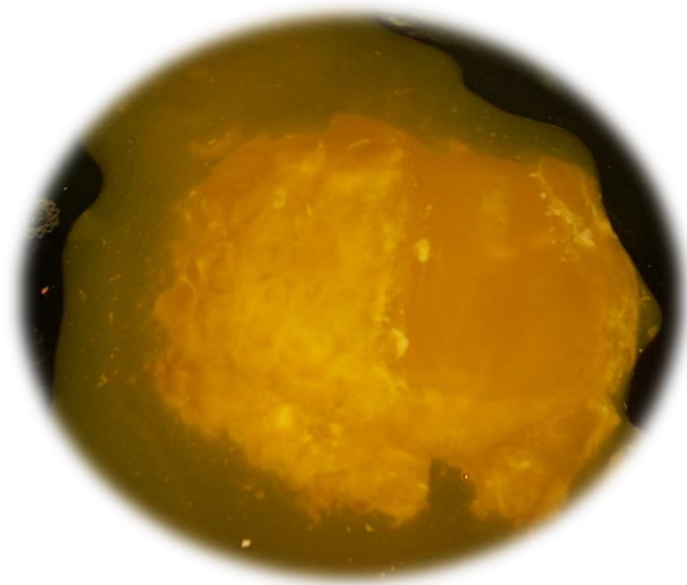
# Day 1

## Embryonic Development

- Appearance of tissue development

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Low fertility
- Pre-incubation, poor egg storage
- Improper egg holding time
- Rough egg handling







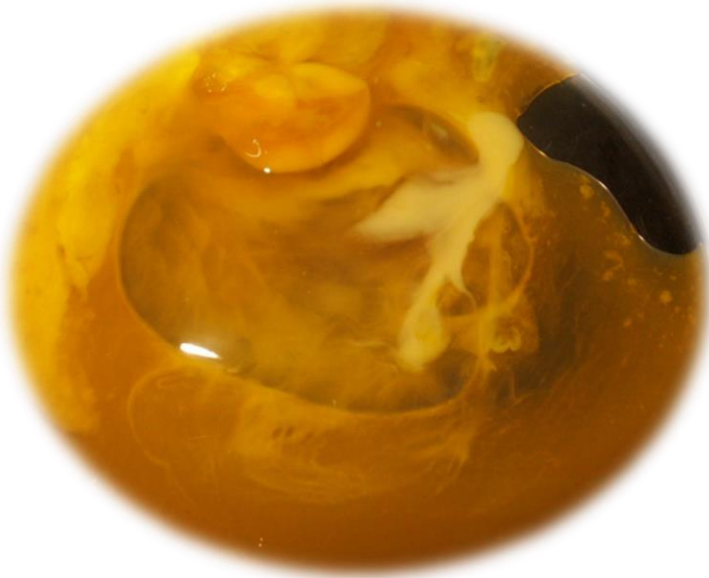
# Day 2

## Embryonic Development

- Tissue development very visible
- Appearance of blood vessels

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Low fertility
- Pre-incubation, poor egg storage
- Improper egg holding time
- Rough egg handling





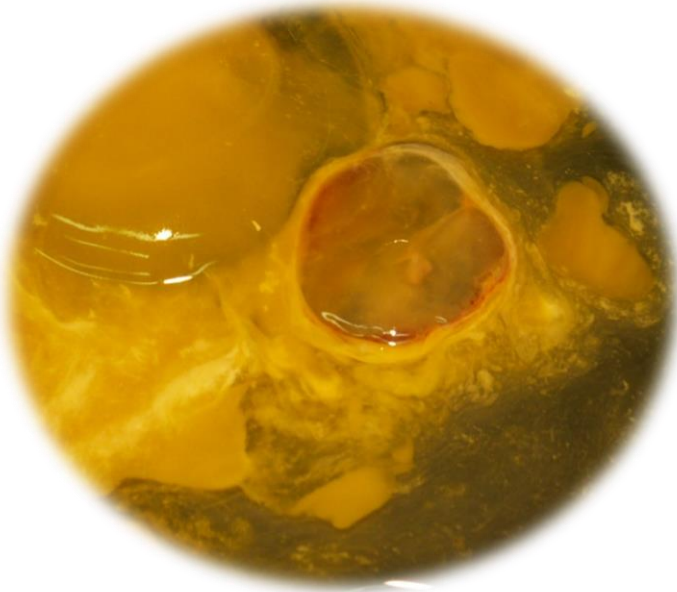
# Day 3

## Embryonic Development

- Heart beats
- Blood vessels very visible

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Low fertility
- Pre-incubation, poor egg storage
- Improper egg holding time
- Rough setting of eggs





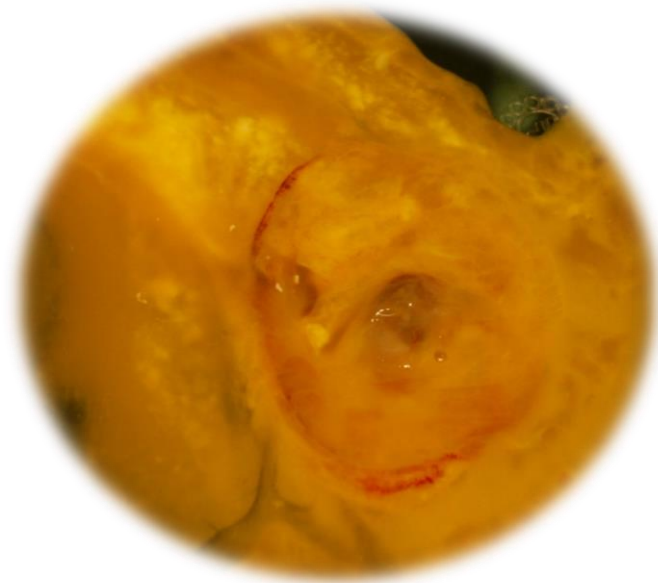
# Day 4

## Embryonic Development

- Eye pigmentation easily visible

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Pre-incubation, poor egg storage
- Improper egg holding time
- Rough setting of eggs
- Contaminated eggs
- Drugs-toxins





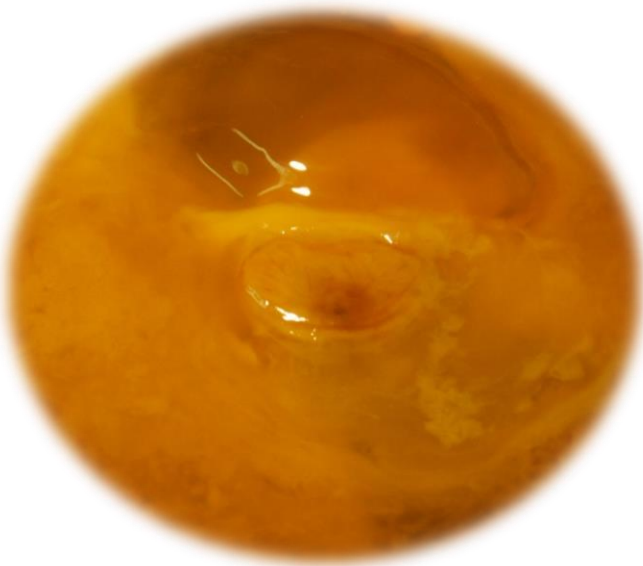
# Day 5

## Embryonic Development

- Appearance of elbows and knees

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Pre-incubation, poor egg storage
- Improper egg holding time
- Rough setting of eggs
- Contaminated eggs
- Drugs-toxins





# Day 6

## Embryonic Development

- Appearance of beak
- Voluntary movement begins

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Pre-incubation, poor egg storage
- Improper egg holding time
- Improper turning
- Rough setting of eggs
- Contaminated eggs
- Drugs-toxins





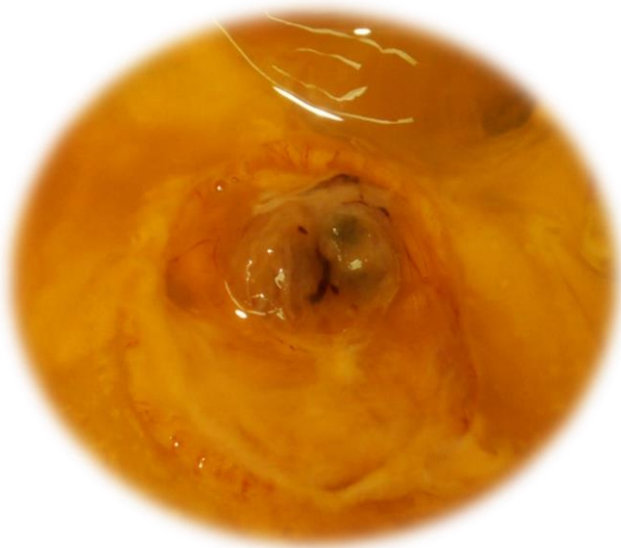
# Day 7

## Embryonic Development

- Comb growth begins
- Egg tooth **begins to appear**

## Troubleshooting Guide

- **Improper temperature**
- Rough setting of eggs
- Contaminated eggs
- Nutritional
  - Vitamin E, riboflavin, biotin, pantothenic acid, linoleic acid
- Drugs-toxins



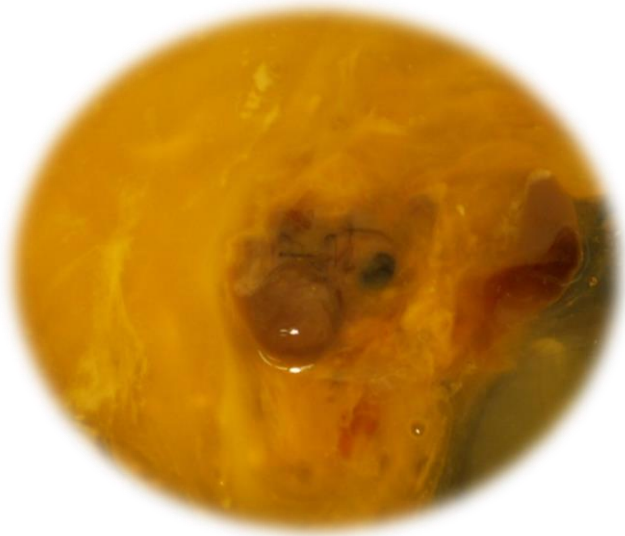




# Day 8

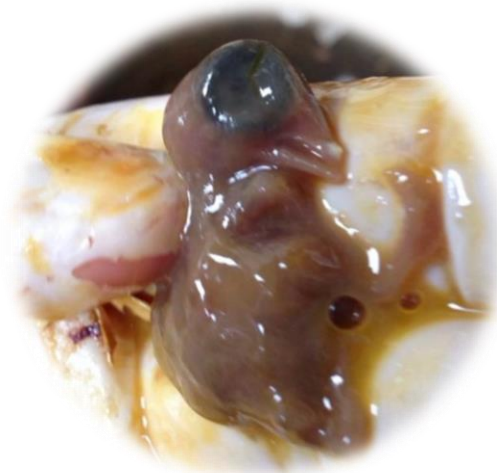
## Embryonic Development

- Feather tracts seen
- Upper & lower beak equal in length
- **Egg tooth easily visible**



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper temperature
- Insufficient egg holding time
- Rough setting of eggs
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid

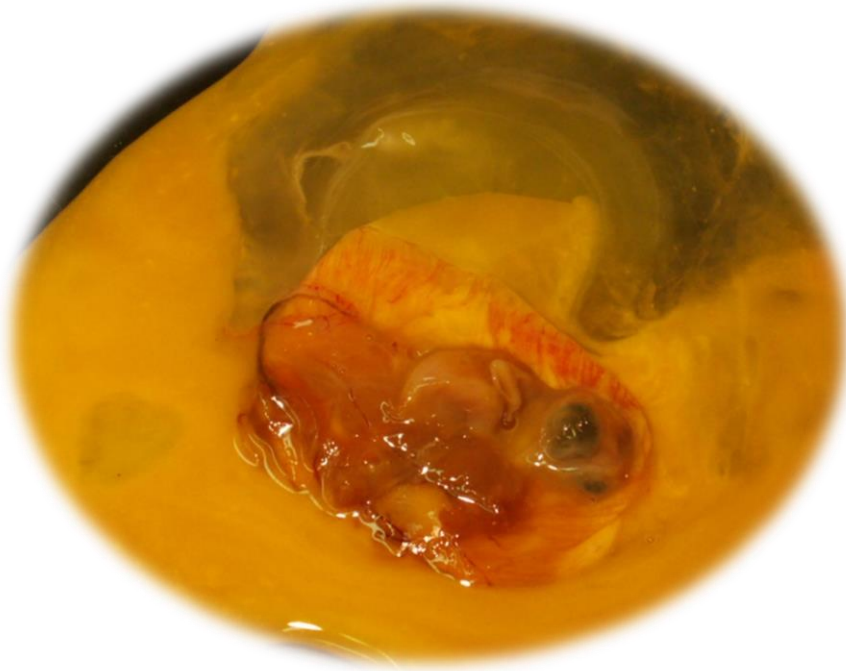




# Day 9

## Embryonic Development

- Embryo starts to look bird like
- Mouth opening appears



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper temperature
- Insufficient egg holding time
- Rough setting of eggs
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid

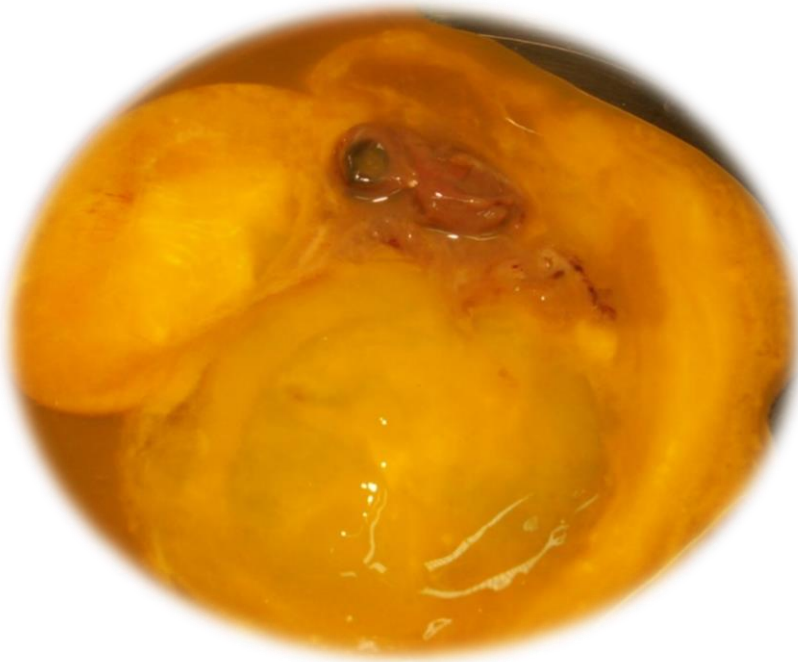




# Day 10

## Embryonic Development

- Egg tooth prominent
- Toe nails



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper ventilation
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid



# Day 11

## Embryonic Development

- Comb serrated
- Tail feathers apparent



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper ventilation
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid



# Day 12

## Embryonic Development

- Toes fully formed
- First few visible feathers



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper ventilation
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid



# Day 13

## Embryonic Development

- Appearance of scales
- Body covered lightly with feathers



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper ventilation
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid



# Day 14

## Embryonic Development

- Embryo turns head towards large end of egg

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper ventilation
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid





# Day 15

## Embryonic Development

- Gut is drawn into abdominal cavity



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper ventilation
- Contaminated
- **Nutritional**
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid



# Day 16

## Embryonic Development

- Feathers cover complete body
- Albumen nearly gone



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Inverted eggs
- Contaminated
- Nutritional
  - Riboflavin, vitamin B12, biotin, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, phosphorous, boron, linoleic acid





# Day 17

## Embryonic Development

- Amniotic fluid decreases
- Head is between legs

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper humidity
- Improper ventilation
- Inverted eggs
- Contaminated







# Day 18

## Embryonic Development

- Growth of embryo nearly complete
- Yolk sac is still on outside of embryo
- Head is under the right wing



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Rough transfer
  - Transfer cracks, delays
- Vaccination
- Wet trays and hatchers
- Inconsistent transfer
- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper humidity
- Improper ventilation
- Inverted eggs



# Day 19

## Embryonic Development

- Yolk sac draws into body cavity
- Amniotic fluid gone
- Embryo occupies most of space within egg(not in the air cell)



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Rough transfer
  - Transfer cracks, delays
- Vaccination
- Wet trays and hatching
- Inconsistent transfer
- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper humidity
- Improper ventilation
- Inverted eggs



# Day 20

## Embryonic Development

- Yolk sac drawn completely into body
- Embryo becomes a chick(breathing in air cell)
- Internal & external pip



## Troubleshooting Guide

- Hatcher ventilation
- Hatcher temperature
- Rough transfer
- Wet trays and hatcher
- Improper turning
- Improper temperature
- Improper humidity
- Improper ventilation
- Inverted eggs



# Day 20

## Embryonic Development

- Yolk sac drawn completely into body
- Embryo becomes a chick(breathing in air cell)
- Internal & external pip

## Troubleshooting Guide

- Breeder disease
- Poor shell quality
- Hatcher temperature
- Hatcher ventilation
- Time of transfer





# Pipped

- Signs

- Dead in shell
- Full-term embryo



- Causes

- **Low humidity or temperature for long periods**
- **Hatcher humidity low**
- **High temperatures during hatching**
- **Poor ventilation**
- Inadequate turning (day 1-12)
- Injury during transfer
- **Prolonged egg storage**



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# Not Pipped

- Signs
    - Dead in shell
    - Full term embryo
    - Large yolk sac
    - Yolk sac may not be fully engulfed by abdominal wall
    - May have residual albumen
  - Causes
    - **Inadequate turning**
    - **Humidity high**
    - **Setter temperature low**
    - Eggs chilled (transfer)
    - Nutritional deficiencies
    - Genetics
    - Embryo accidental development
    - Breeder disease
    - **Poor ventilation**
    - **Prolonged egg storage**
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# Partially Pipped

- Signs
  - Embryo alive
  - Embryo dead
- Causes
  - Same as for pipped, full-term embryos
  - Excessive fumigation during hatching
  - Egg set small end up



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# Malpositioned Chicks

- Signs
    - Head in large end of egg
    - Head to the right and under right wing
    - Beak towards air cell
    - Feet towards head
  - Causes
    - Eggs set small end up
    - Improper egg turning
    - Setter temperature too high or too low
    - Humidity too high
    - Old breeders
    - Round shaped eggs or very large eggs
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# Chicks Hatching Early

- Signs
    - Excessively noisy chicks
    - Thin chicks
    - Dry skin around legs and feet
    - Increased 7 day field mortality
  - Causes
    - Small eggs
    - Breed differences
    - Setter temperature too high
    - Setter humidity too low
-



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# Chicks Hatching Late

- Signs
    - Called 'green chicks'
    - Swollen abdomen
  - Causes
    - Large eggs
    - Old breeders
    - Eggs stored too long
    - Setter temperature too low
    - Weak embryos
    - Inbreeding (genetics)
    - Setter humidity too high
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# Slow Hatch

- Signs
    - Protracted or 'drawn- out' hatch
    - Mixture of early and late hatched chicks
    - Chicks begin hatching early but slow to finish
  - Causes
    - Mixture of eggs stored too long and too short
    - Mixture of eggs from young and old breeders
    - Mix of large and small eggs
    - Improper egg handling
    - Hot or cold spots in setters or hatchers
    - High or low temperatures in setters or hatchers
    - Poor ventilation in machines and rooms & hallways`
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# Skeletal Malformations

- Signs
  - Posterior duplication
  - Any multiple truncated development
- Causes
  - Poor egg storage and handling
  - Inadequate turning
  - Improper egg orientation (small end up)
  - Setter temperature too high or too low
  - Breeder disease
  - Poor ventilation or poor conductivity of eggs





# Cross Beak & Missing Eye

- Temperature too high
- Egg turning problems





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# Poor Chick Quality

- Signs
    - Hatching trays not hatching uniformly throughout machine
  - Causes
    - Mix of large and small eggs
    - Mix of eggs from young and old breeders
    - Mix of eggs from different strains (breeds)
    - Variation in egg storage
    - Setter or hatcher ventilation not uniform
    - **Disease or stress in some breeder flocks**
    - Variation in on farm egg storage procedures
-



# Open or Unhealed Navel

- Signs
  - Open and unhealed navels
  - Dry, rough down feathers
- Causes
  - Setter temperature too high or variation in temperature
  - Hatcher temperature low
  - Hatcher humidity too high, or not lowered at hatch completion
  - Poor breeder nutrition





# Stringy Navel

- Signs
  - Dry, rough down
  - Unhealed navel
  - 'string' attached to navel
- Causes
  - Setter temperature too high or too low
    - Wide fluctuations in temperature
- Hatcher humidity too high
- Inadequate breeder nutrition







# Unhealed Navel, Infection

- Signs
  - Wet, odorous chicks
  - Large, mushy
  - Soft bodied, lethargic
- Causes
  - Omphalitis, navel infection and contamination
    - Egg contamination from breeder farm, egg transport, hatchery
    - Unsanitary trays, machines, etc
  - Setter temperature too low
  - Setter or hatcher humidity too high
  - Poor ventilation





# Red Hocks

- Signs
  - Red hocks
    - hatched chicks
    - unhatched chicks
  - Red abrasion on upper beak
- Causes
  - Difficulty during hatching and pipping
    - Thick shells (pullet flocks)
    - High setter humidity
    - Low setter temperature
  - Vitamin deficiency





# Chicks Stuck in Shell

- Signs
  - Some chicks stuck in shell
  - Chicks dry
  - Shell fragments stuck to down
- Causes
  - Humidity too low during egg storage, incubation, and/or hatching
  - Improper egg turning
  - Cracked eggs or poor shell quality





# Brain Hernia (Exposed Brain)

- Temperature too high
- Egg turning problems
- High CO<sub>2</sub> level
- Equipment malfunction





# Strategy

- Learn to use egg break-out data to develop action plans for hatch improvement and monitor results of the action plan.
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# Summary

- Obtain appropriate data and keep good records
- Try and identify flocks or equipment as potential problems and/or eliminate areas that are not a factor



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# Summary

- Try and determine if any other changes have occurred that may affect the problem
- Make necessary adjustments where needed



**YOUR PARTNER  
FOR A WORRY FREE HATCHERY**





## Introduction

- Advances in hatchery and incubation technology and the equipment available continues to improve and provide opportunities previously unavailable





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## Incubation Time

- Three factors influence incubation time:
  - 1) Temperature of incubation
    - Somewhat fixed, but can be adjusted for age of flock, hatchery equipment, etc.
  - 2) Age of eggs
    - Stored egg take longer to incubate (add 1 hour per day storage)
  - 3) Size of the eggs
    - Larger eggs take longer to incubate
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## Setter Operation

- Requirements for incubation (embryo growth)
    - Correct temperature (~ 98.0 – 100.3 F)
    - Correct humidity (~ 54%, ~ 82 F wet bulb)
    - Adequate gas exchange (~ 12% weight loss)
    - Regular turning of eggs (~ 1 x per hour)
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## Setter Operation

- There are three types of commercial incubation systems
  - Multi-stage fixed rack
  - Multi-stage buggy loading
  - Single-stage buggy loading



# Incubation Types

- Three main types of machines:
- 1 Multi-stage fixed rack







# Incubation Types

- Three main types of machines:
- 2 Multi-stage  
buggy loading





# Incubation Types

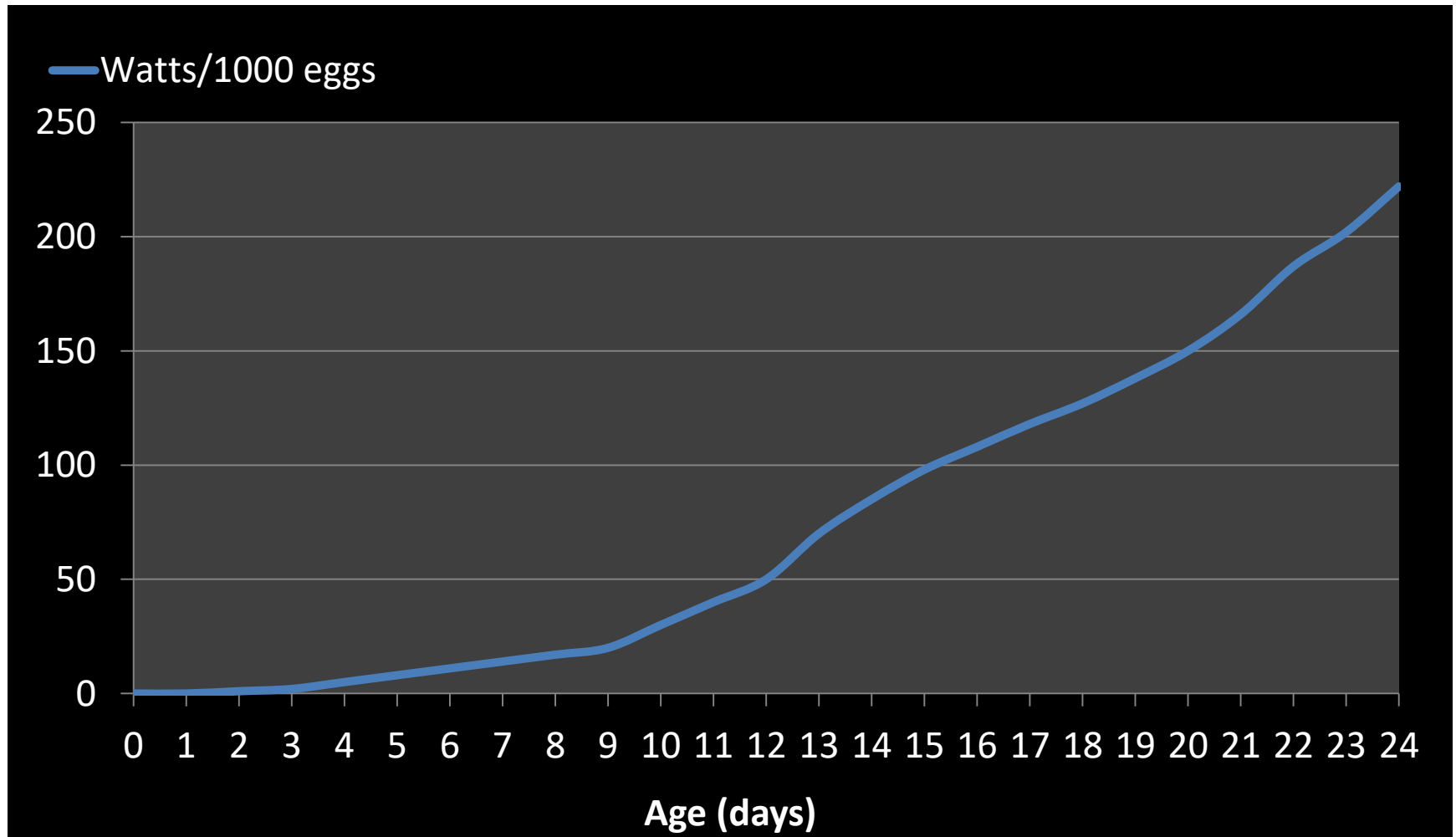
- Three main types of machines:

- 3 Single-stage  
buggy loading





# Heat Production of Developing Embryos

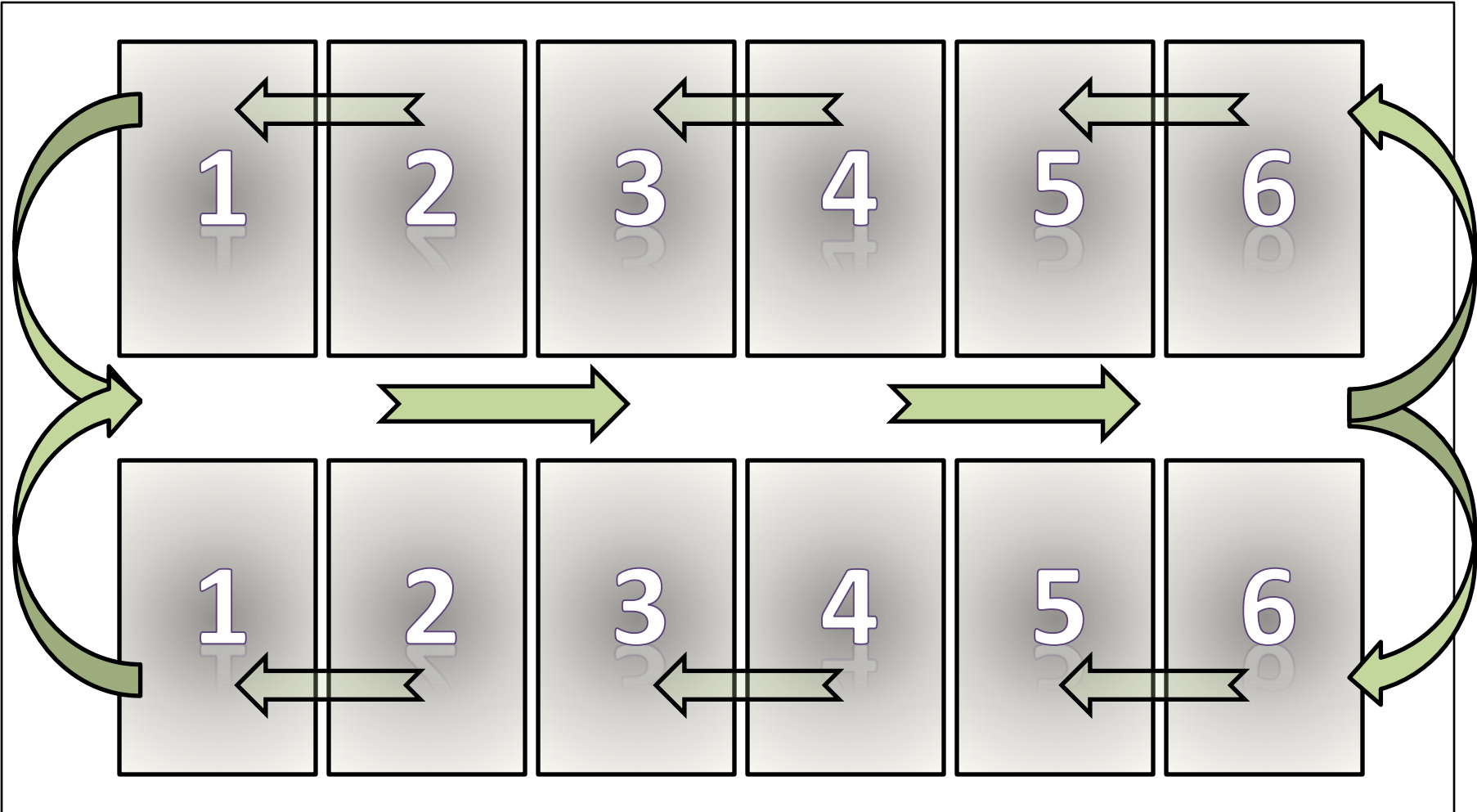


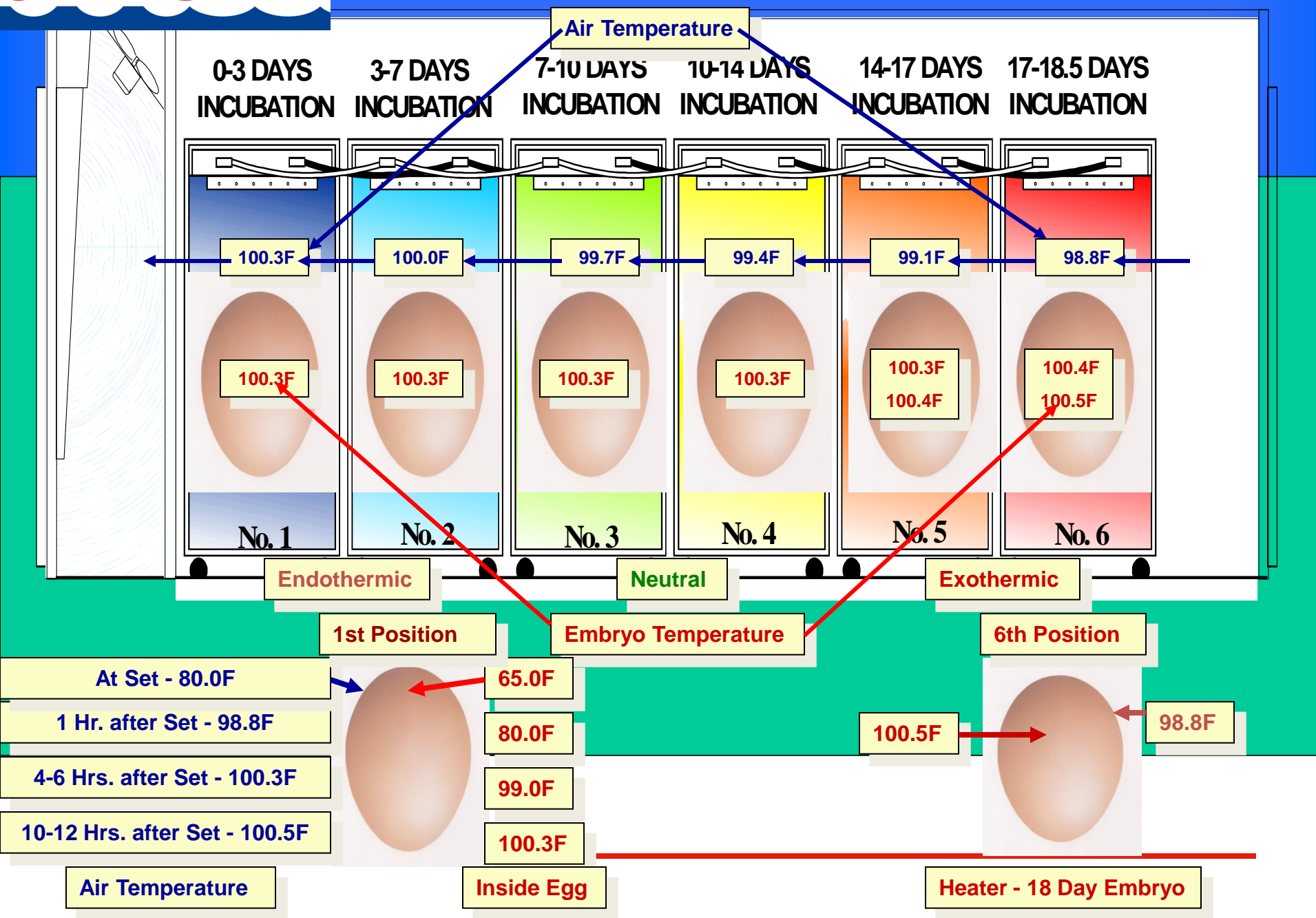






# Multi-stage Buggy Loading

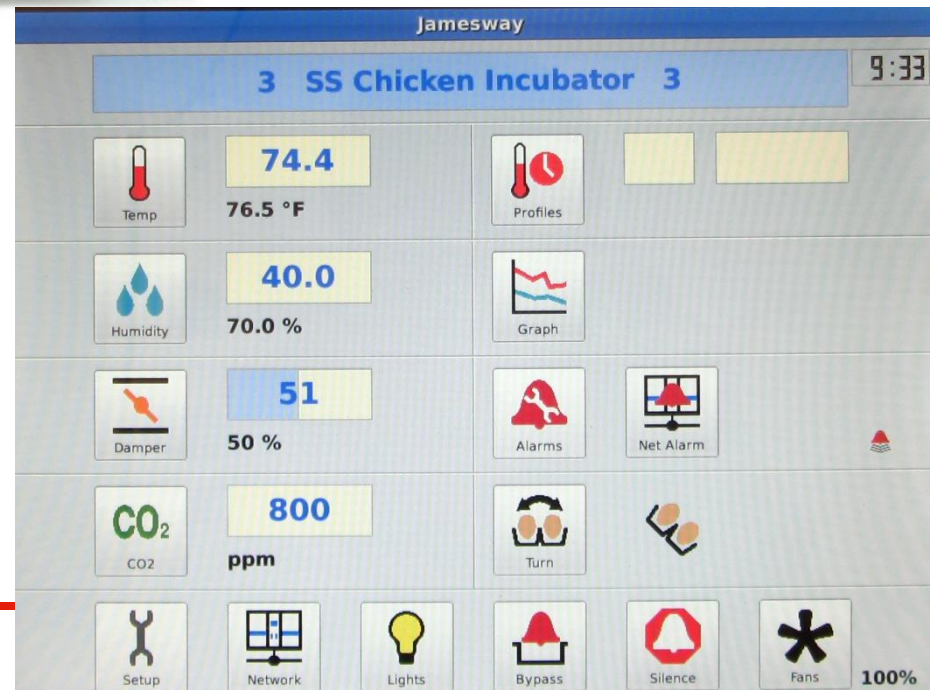
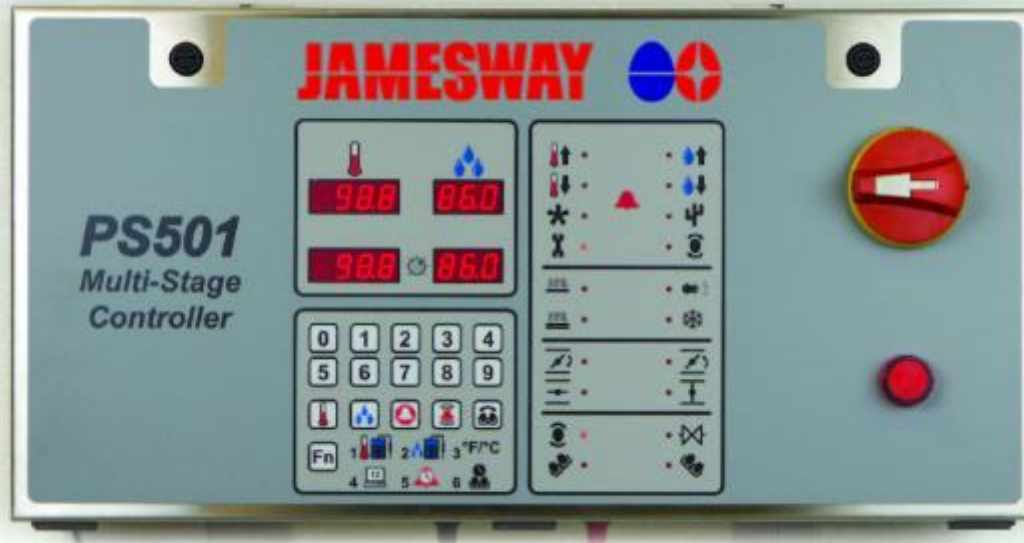








Single-stage  
Buggy loading





# Incubation Systems Available in Today's Industry

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- 1. Multi Stage Incubation
  - a. Still by far the most common (varying stages of embryonic development in each incubator)
  - b. One way system to achieve averages for all
  - c. Interdependent (Each group of embryos supports and are dependant on the other)
- 2. Single Stage Incubation
  - a. All in - All out
  - b. Flexibility
  - c. Biosecurity
- STATEMENT: Industry Trend Is Toward Single Stage



# Ventilation

- Setters draw fresh air from the room they are in and expel  $\text{CO}_2$  and excess heat
  - Setters have internal humidity and temperature control, but incoming air (from the room or hallway) is pre-humidified and temperature controlled
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# Temperature Control

- Temperature determines the metabolic rate and development of the embryo
    - Multi-stage incubation - temperature remains constant
    - Single-stage incubation – temperature can be altered to best stimulate growth. Starting with a higher temperature then reduced thereafter. (incubation profiling)
    - Temperature variations due to incorrect loading will create incubation problems
-





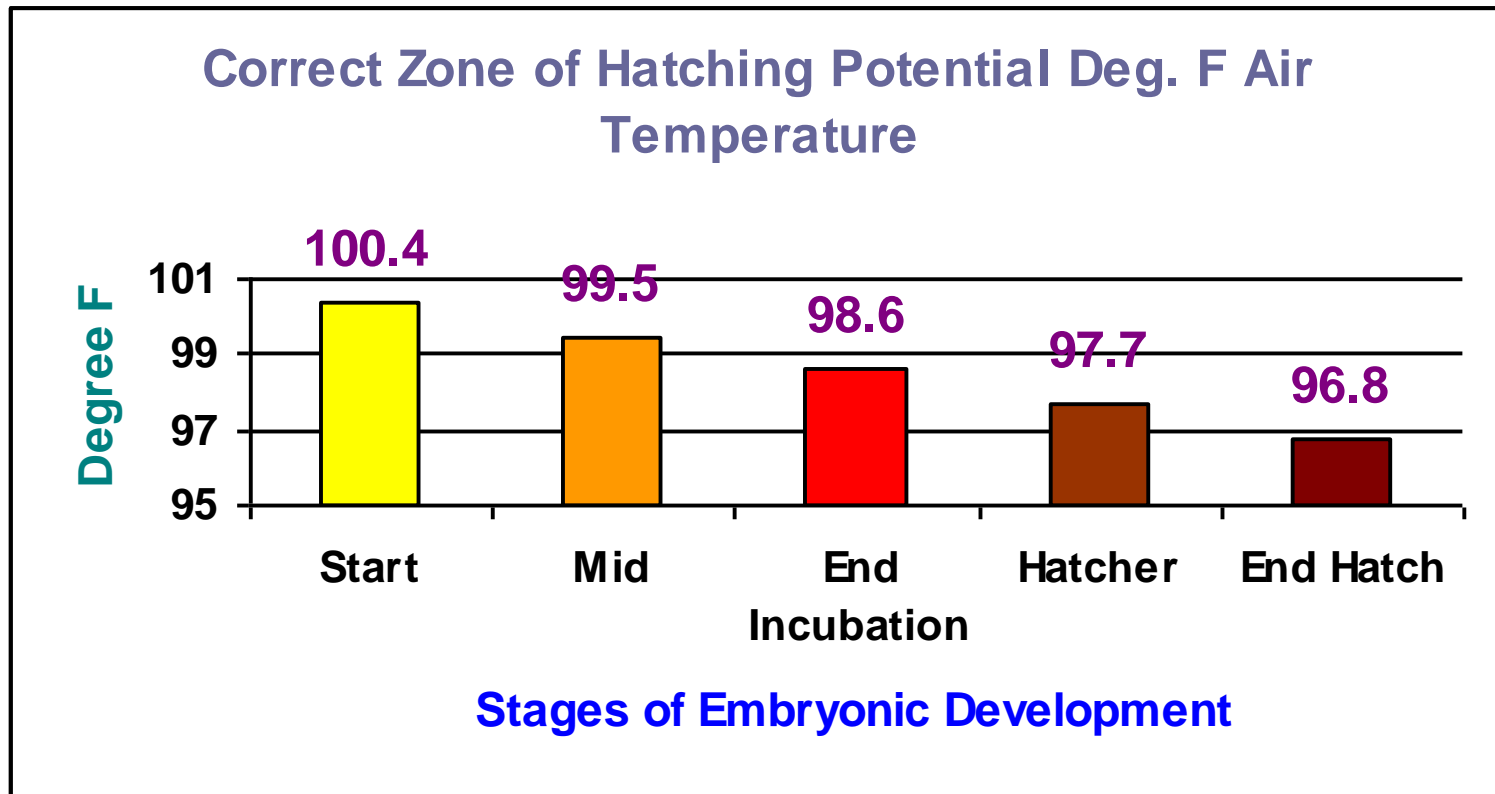
## Example Setter Profile

Incubator 129 Profile 510 - 512 Total Incubation Time

		Day/Hr	Pilot Temperature	Air Temperature	Humidity	Damper CO2 PPM %	Damper CO2 PPM	Damper % Opening
PreWarm	1	-6		80.0	75%		5	5
	2	-3		85.0	75%		5	5
Endothermic	Developmental	3	0.00	100.4	100.4	75%	0	0
		4	1.00	100.3	100.3	75%	0	0
		5	2.00	100.2	100.2	75%	0	0
		6	3.12	100.1	100.1	75%	4000 PPM	4000 PPM
		7	4.12	100.1	100.0	75%	5000 PPM	5000 PPM
		8	5.12	100.1	99.9	75%	6000 PPM	6000 PPM
		9	6.00	100.1	99.8	75%	7000 PPM	7000 PPM
Neutral	Maintenance	10	7.00	100.0	99.7	75%	8000 PPM	8000 PPM
		11	8.00	100.0	99.6	75%	9000 PPM	9000 PPM
		12	9.00	100.0	99.5	70%	10000 PPM	10000 PPM
		13	9.12	100.0	99.4	62%	15%	6000 PPM
		14	10.00	100.0	99.3	55%	20%	4000 PPM
		15	10.06	100.0	99.2	50%	25%	4000 PPM
		16	11.00	100.0	99.0	48%	30%	4000 PPM
		17	11.12	100.0	98.8	45%	35%	4000 PPM
		18	12.00	100.0	98.6	44%	40%	4000 PPM
		19	12.06	100.0	98.4	43%	45%	4000 PPM
		20	12.12	100.0	98.2	42%	50%	4000 PPM
		21	13.00	100.0	98.1	40%	55%	4000 PPM
		22	13.12	100.0	98.0	39%	60%	4000 PPM
Exothermic	Maturity	23	14.12	100.1	97.8	35%	70%	3800 PPM
		24	15.00	100.1	97.6	32%	75%	3500 PPM
		25	15.12	100.2	97.4	30%	80%	3200 PPM
		26	16.00	100.2	97.2	30%	85%	3000 PPM
		27	16.12	100.2	97.2	30%	90%	3000 PPM
		28	17.00	100.2	97.2	30%	95%	2800 PPM
		29	18.00	100.2	97.3	30%	100%	100%
		30	18.12	100.2	97.4	30%	100%	100%



# Air Temperature Zones vs Stages of Development





# Humidity

- Egg shell contains pores from which water vapor is lost from the egg during incubation
- Humidity can control the moisture loss
- Approximately 12% weight loss should occur by 18 days incubation
  - Weigh eggs at day 0, and weigh the same eggs again at 18 days.





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# Turning

- Eggs must be turned during incubation about ~ 1 time per hour (3 or 5 x per day)
  - Prevents embryo from sticking to membranes of the shell and aids in development of embryonic membranes
  - Necessary first 2/3 of incubation period
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# Egg Transfer

- Eggs are transferred from the setter to the hatcher at 20-21 days of incubation for several reasons
    - 1) To lay eggs on their side to allow freedom of movement during the hatching process
    - 2) Better hygiene as fluff from hatched chicks and eggs is contained in hatchers and hatcher halls, this helps reduce contamination
    - 3) Eggs and embryos are sorted and processed at this time
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# Operation of Hatchers

- Most commercial hatcheries hatch 4 times per week, twice from each hatcher
    - Monday and Thursday
    - Tuesday and Friday
  - Hatchers are washed between each hatch to ensure cleanliness
  - Construction must be durable to handle these factors
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# Operation of Hatchers

- Ventilation & Humidity
    - Initially the same as in the setters
    - As chicks begin to pip humidity rises to keep shell membranes moist
  - Temperature
    - Usually slightly lower than in the setters
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## Success???

- *Hatchability* is an indication of the breeder-hatchery program
  - *Hatch of Fertile* is an indication of the hatchery management
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# Summary

- Try and determine if any other changes have occurred that may affect the problem
- Make necessary adjustments where needed

