

Hatchery

Poultry farms should be situated in the bush.



Hatchery must be separated from other poultry farming or sales/distribution activities.



Visitors and workers must wear special protective shoes and clothing to enter hatchery.



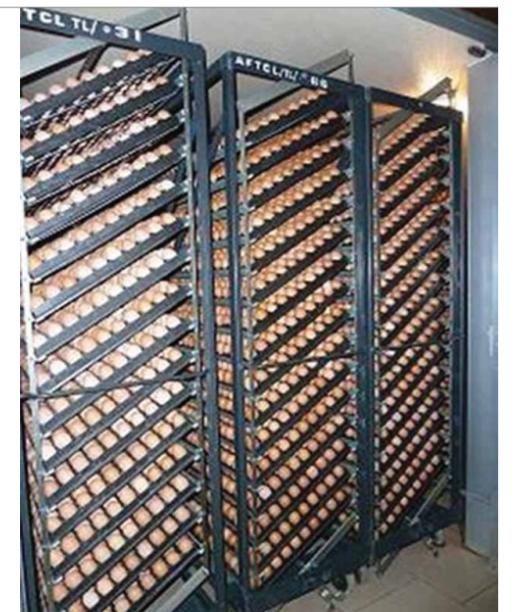
People's feet and vehicle tires must be washed in disinfectant pools.



Areas within hatchery (e.g., fumigation rooms, incubation areas, DOC preparation areas) must be well demarcated and separated.



Eggs must be fumigated before incubation.



Packing into Vehicles

Use disposable carton boxes only once.



Pack DOCs into boxes, no more than 51-52 per box. Optimal space allowance is 21-25 cm² for each DOC.



Before transit, store well-stacked boxes in a cool room with a fan to allow ventilation.



Use special DOC vehicles.



Benefits

Before Chick Arrival

- Provide chicks with biosecure, clean housing.
- Arrange equipment to enable the chicks to access water and feed easily upon arrival.
- Feed should be a sieved crumb with no dust.
- Chicks should not have to move more than 1m to find water or feed in the first 24 hours.
- Position supplementary feeders and drinkers near the main feeding and drinking systems.
- Pre-heat the house and stabilise temperature and humidity prior to chick arrival - achieve a floor temperature of 25-30 C.

Chick Arrival

- Unload and place chicks quickly.
- Ensure feed and water are available immediately.
- Light intensity should be >20 lux to stimulate chick activity.
- Allow chicks to settle for 1-2 hours then check behaviour.

Environment Targets

- Chick placement targets:
 - Air temperature of 30 C (at chick height)
 - Litter Temperature of 28-30 C
 - Relative humidity of 60-70%
- Use chicks behaviour to determine if temperature is correct.
- Ventilation (without draughts) is required to provide fresh air and remove waste gas, excess moisture and heat.
- Chicks are susceptible to wind chill effects, therefore the air speed should be less than 0.15 m/s.

Measure of Success

Crop fill

- When chicks start to feed, they tend to eat a good meal. If chicks are feeding and drinking properly the crop fills with a mixture of feed and water. Gentle handling within the first 24 hours can indicate the chicks' progress.
- Check a sample of birds 2 hours after arrival to ensure all chicks have found feed and water.
- Gentle sample the crops of 30-40 chicks from 3 or 4 different places in the house.
- Chick crop fill assessment.

Step of crop fill chick after placement	Target crop fill (% of chicks with full crop)
1 hour	75%
2 hours	85%
3 hours	95%

- Reduces DOC losses in transit, which average 5% but can be as much as 100%.
- Reduces stress on chicks during pre-transit prep.
- Improves long-term chick health.
- Healthy, reliable chicks can bring a significant price premium.

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EXPANDED AGRIBUSINESS AND TRADE PROMOTION (E-ATP) PROJECT

GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICES IN DAY-OLD CHICKS LOGISTICS IN WEST AFRICA

