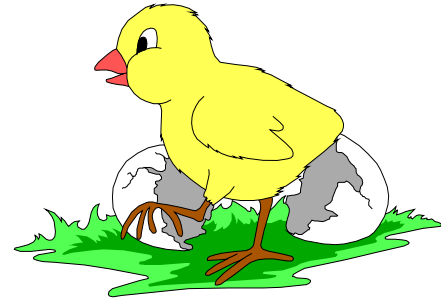




## QUICK START GUIDE INCUBATION AND EMBRYOLOGY 4-H SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



For more detailed information check the resources on our website at

<http://extension.missouri.edu/adair/schoolenrichment.aspx>.

The website should answer a number of your questions, if not call the Extension Center at 665-9866.

### INCUBATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin regulating incubator temperature on Friday before your eggs arrive. Temperature is to be kept at 101-101.5°F. Temperature should be regulated by the time the eggs arrive on Monday. Take the eggs out of the carton and place in incubator with thermometer next to the eggs. *Monitor the temperature and adjust to your environment, if necessary.*
2. Turn the eggs in the morning, at lunch, and before going home from school each day for the first week. Mark each egg with an "X" using a soft lead pencil so you will know which eggs you have turned. You will not have to turn the eggs after Friday.
3. Water must be added for humidity control. Fill dish with warm water and place under the screen holding the eggs. Check every day. You will want to make sure there is plenty of water on Friday before going home for the weekend.
4. Eggs should hatch Monday or Tuesday. Some eggs may hatch early or late. You may want to allow a couple of extra days for hatch. Those eggs that have not hatched by Thursday morning should be thrown away.
5. DO NOT "HELP" THE CHICKS OUT OF THEIR SHELLS.
6. Chicks can be removed from the incubator when they are completely dry and fluffy.
7. Instructions for cleaning your incubator are included on this sheet.

### AFTER CHICKS HATCH

1. Place chicks in a large cardboard box with cat litter in the bottom of the box. Never place chicks on a smooth surface. This causes spraddle legs. A gooseneck lamp at one end of the box provides enough heat for the birds. The chicks will huddle under the light for warmth and then will move away if too hot. Use a 60-75 watt bulb.
2. Water and Feed - Boiled eggs, corn meal or oatmeal will be fine for the chicks. Put water in a jar lid with pebbles or marbles in the water to keep the chicks from standing in the lid and getting wet.
3. Return the clean disinfected incubator and program evaluation (found on the web site) to the Adair County Extension Center by noon on Thursday.

CLEANING YOUR INCUBATOR - Upon completion of the incubation period, there are several things to do before returning the incubators.

1. Destroy any eggs that have not hatched. Put them in a sack, box, or other container and have the janitor or custodian put them in the trash. Do not return unhatched eggs.
2. Egg shells from the hatched chicks should be removed as they hatch. Those pieces left or that fall through mesh will be cleaned out after the incubation period.
3. Remove the mesh screening after disposing of the eggs.
4. Prepare warm water with disinfectant. Wash off the screen and water pan, bottom of incubator and thermometer. Dry and reassemble.
5. Be sure to replace the screen, thermometer and water pan.

This will make the Incubation and Embryology program a success for you and much nicer for the next teacher scheduled to use the incubator.

FINDING A HOME FOR YOUR CHICKS – Prior to starting an incubation and embryology project, a specific plan for disposing of the chicks should be worked out. Chicks from these and related projects should be disposed of in a reasonable, humane way. The best plan is to give the chicks to someone who has proper brooding facilities, successful brooding experience, and the interest to properly care for and raise the chicks.

It is unacceptable to let students take chicks home as pets. If you cannot find someone qualified to take and raise the chicks, contact the Extension Center and we may be able to give you some ideas. These chicks are Cornish-cross, specifically bred to be fast growing, broad-breasted meat type chickens. They are generally ready to butcher at 6 weeks of age, or before.

University of Missouri Extension and Missouri 4-H Youth Development Programs have a wide variety of School Enrichment Programs. Please contact your local University of Missouri Extension Center for more information.

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