

Issue No. 12. July 2010

Visit our website at <http://www.pembrookeplantsandpoultry.com.au>



Newsletter from Pembrooke Plants and Poultry

**In this issue:**

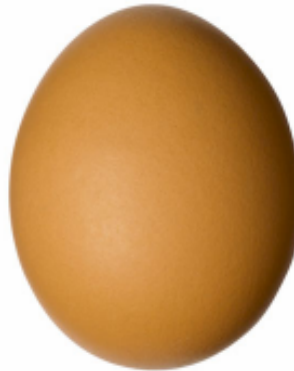
## **Preparing your incubator for fertile eggs**

If you're thinking about buying fertile eggs later in the season, you need to start planning now.

These are the main things you need to consider:

### **Preparing your incubator**

- Clean your incubator thoroughly. Make sure there is no shell or feather residue in the chamber or on the racks that could harbor disease or affect the thermostat.
- Check your ventilation (ie the air intake). These can easily become blocked by insulation, furniture or even curtains.
- Check your egg-turning mechanism. A little machine oil is sometimes needed to get it working smoothly.
- Ensure that the temperature is running steadily at the recommended temperature. Sometimes it can take a few days for your incubator to stabilize its heat because of variations in its insulation qualities as well as the room in which it is placed.
- You will save power if you run the incubator in a warm room with a stable temperature.



### **Receiving your eggs**

- After ordering your eggs, please make sure you pick them up as soon as possible when notified of their arrival. If they sit in a hot letterbox for more than a day, fertility could be seriously reduced.
- Open the package carefully and allow the eggs to sit for 12-24 hours before setting (this is important as eggs aren't designed for travel and it lets them settle).

- Set in the incubator tray with the pointy end of the egg downwards. Some trays are designed for eggs to lay on their sides. This is ok – we mark the top with a crayon to ensure they are turning evenly.
- Once you have closed the incubator door, do not open unnecessarily. This is especially important during days 18-21 or the hatch when humidity levels are critical. Closely follow your incubator's instructions about adjusting humidity at critical times in the hatching process.
- (Please read the accompanying article reproduced on our website with permission from Australasian Poultry for more info on preparing your incubator.)



*The Croad Langshans are doing well this season*

### **General considerations**

While we do everything we can to ensure the safe arrival of your eggs, accidents sometimes happen during transport. Please let us know as soon as possible if there is obvious damage to your parcel or it contains broken eggs.

Even at peak fertility, a hatch rate greater than 50 per cent is considered successful for mail order eggs. The few complaints that we receive about reduced hatch rates are usually due to poor preparation and lack of attention during the hatching process. Good hatching takes experience and dedication.

### **What to expect this season**

We had a native quoll from hell (genus *Dasyurus*) decimate our poultry flock recently, so there may be a reduced number of breeds available this year.

However, we are doing our best to bring numbers up again, and our first eggs have gone into our incubator to begin fertility testing.

Thank you to all of you who have subscribed to our mailing list – we will let you know as soon as eggs are available. This is generally sometime in August (depending on the season).

If you would like to know more about buying fertile eggs and incubation, please go to the home page of our website <http://www.pembrokeplantsandpoultry.com.au> and read the article in the news section titled "Buying Fertile Eggs" (reproduced with kind permission from Australasian Poultry magazine).

Good luck with this year's hatch

Morna and Peter  
Pembroke Plants and Poultry