



Checklist - Chick processing and holding

This is the third checklist which we hope will be useful when investigating how well your hatchery is performing and where improvements might be made.

CHICK PROCESSING

- If banger numbers are high, unload by hand to avoid spreading contamination.
- Check belts, conveyors, needles and other equipment daily to ensure chicks cannot be injured.
- Change vaccination needles every 1,000 chicks.

CHICK HOLDING AND TRANSPORT

- Check chick vent temperatures (target 103-105 F) in different zones every hour. Alter room temperature set point as needed.
- Adjust room ventilation rate according to chick numbers (aim for <1,500ppm CO₂).
- Do not place chicks beneath air inlets or in direct airflow; if they are in a draft they will become chilled.
- Plan delivery times to minimize holding duration and account for climate.
- Do not overload chick trucks.

CHICK HOLDING ROOM VENTILATION

- Run the room at slightly negative pressure (not lower than -10pa).
- Distribute fresh air evenly and avoid temperature differences, drafts or fluctuations.
- Place stacks of boxes in an unbroken row (shown right) and use fans to create a steady air velocity in between the rows of chick boxes. This will help to maintain air speed and consistent heat removal.
- All roof circulation fans should work upward.

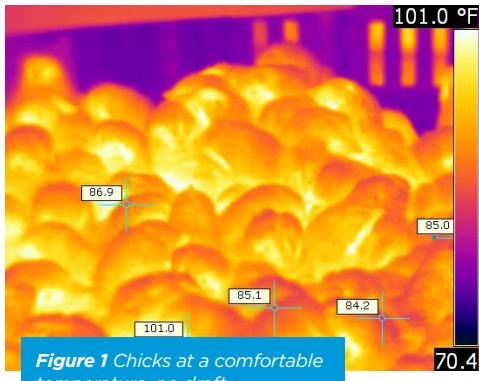


Figure 1 Chicks at a comfortable temperature, no draft.



Figure 2 Chilled chicks in a direct draft from a ceiling air inlet.

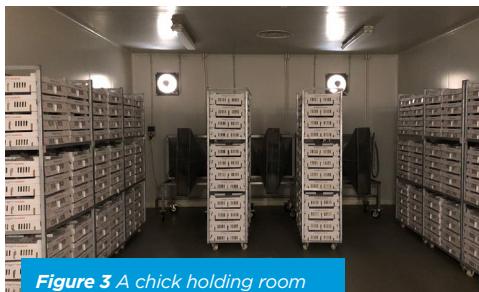


Figure 3 A chick holding room with good layout and ventilation.