Checklist - Setters and Hatchers

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

SETTERS

- **Calibration**

  Calibrate thermometers in single-stage setters every set, multistage setters every month.

  Check turning mechanism and angles.

  Calibrate damper openings at 0%, 50% and 100%. Avoid hot/cold spots by checking fixed dampers.

  Calibrate CO_2 sensors every three months.

- **Egg shell temperatures**

  Target 100 F (99.5 F- 101.5 F) egg shell temperature of fertile eggs from day 1 to day 20.

  Check egg shell temperatures at days 2, 15 and 17.

  Check egg shell temperatures in different positions to identify hot/cold spots.

- **Weight loss**

  Target 10.5-12.5% weight loss from lay to 18 day transfer.

  Calculate target weight loss for every set, accounting for weight loss during egg storage.

  Alter RH% set points to meet the target.

TRANSFER

- **Transfer on day 18 (19 if vaccinating in ovo).**
- **Keep eggs warm – waiting time <15 mins.**
- **Candle /remove infertile and early dead embryos.**
- **Backfill baskets to balance the number of live embryos across the hatcher.**
- **Evenly distribute eggs across the hatcher basket.**
- **Transfer eggs gently to avoid damage.**

HATCHERS

- **Calibration**

  Calibrate temperature and humidity sensors monthly.

  Calibrate CO_2 sensors every three months.

- **Set points**

  ≤98 F after transfer and ≤97 F at the end.

  If a constant set point is unavoidable, use 97.5 F.

  Adjust set points according to estimated chick numbers.

  Avoid hot/cold spots by not using humidifiers.

- **CO_2 levels**

  Avoid high CO_2 set points at the end of hatch.

  Monitor hatches with a wider hatch window carefully.

- **Hatch window**

  Observe hatch window and investigate problems.

  Keep window below 30 hours.

- **Pull and cleaning**

  Keep hatcher doors closed and fans running until all chicks are out.

  Empty all hatchers in the same corridor before cleaning.

  Close hatcher doors during pulling, unless passing through them.