



Let your eggs guide you

When you set up your incubator, did you know that your eggs can give you the best guidance on whether the incubator temperature settings are correct?

Incubator temperature sensors measure air temperature at various places in the machine. For practical reasons sensors have to be sited somewhere they do not get in the way of loading or cleaning. Because of this, they may not always reflect the air temperature that is experienced by the eggs.

Provided that everything is correctly set up, and the machine is well maintained, then the air temperature is a good indicator that the embryo temperatures are correct as well. But if not, the machine temperature may not predict embryo temperature as accurately as you would like it to.

Once the setter has stabilized, it is wise to calibrate the machine sensors. This should be done using an accurate, certified calibration thermometer, every time the machine is loaded (single stage) or monthly (multi stage).

But this only tells you whether the air temperature recorded by the machine sensors is accurate. It may not be at a level which is optimal for the embryos.



So, you should also check that your eggs reflect the temperature calibration.

Check the egg shell temperature on day 2 of incubation, when the eggs are up to incubator temperature but the embryo is too small to be producing heat. The eggshell temperatures should all be within $\pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{F}$.

(0.1°C) of the air temperature in most types of setter. If they are not, it could indicate something is wrong (for example worn door seals, sticking solenoids, etc).

