



When did you last watch your eggs turning?

Hatchery managers have many responsibilities, making it difficult to find time to observe egg turning in setters.

However, egg turning is a critical process that directly impacts hatch rates and chick quality. Proper turning prevents embryos from sticking to the shell membrane, promoting uniform growth and reducing deformities. Taking a few moments to check the turning process can prevent costly mistakes:

- Did the eggs turn when expected?
- Did all trolleys and trays turn properly?
- Was the turning action smooth?
- Was the turning angle correct on all trolleys and trays?

Turning issues are among the most common problems identified during hatchery visits. Incorrect turning angles or complete turning failure can severely impact embryo development, especially early in incubation. Even mildly suboptimal turning can increase early and late dead embryos, malpositions, and unabsorbed albumen, ultimately reducing hatchability. Egg turning mimics a hen's natural behavior, rotating eggs frequently to distribute heat and humidity evenly. In artificial incubation, automated systems perform this task by rotating eggs, usually every hour. Without consistent turning, embryos can adhere to the inner shell membrane, resulting in developmental defects or death.

Egg turning is essential for successful incubation, but its effectiveness depends on well-maintained equipment. Since egg turning is continuous and repetitive, the equipment is prone to wear and tear. Regular maintenance is essential to prevent mechanical failures that could compromise hatch rates. By prioritizing regular inspections, cleaning, and calibration, hatchery managers can maintain optimal performance, ensuring higher hatch rates and healthier chicks. Addressing turning issues promptly can prevent costly losses and maximize productivity.

