

Brooding



Small Flock Brooding and Management
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What is Brooding?

- “Period from hatching until supplemental heat is no longer needed”
- Changing requirements
- Intense management
- 3-6 weeks



Brooding has 8 aspects to remember...



- Light
- Temperature
- Ventilation
- Humidity
- Bedding
- Feed
- Water
- Mortality

Lighting

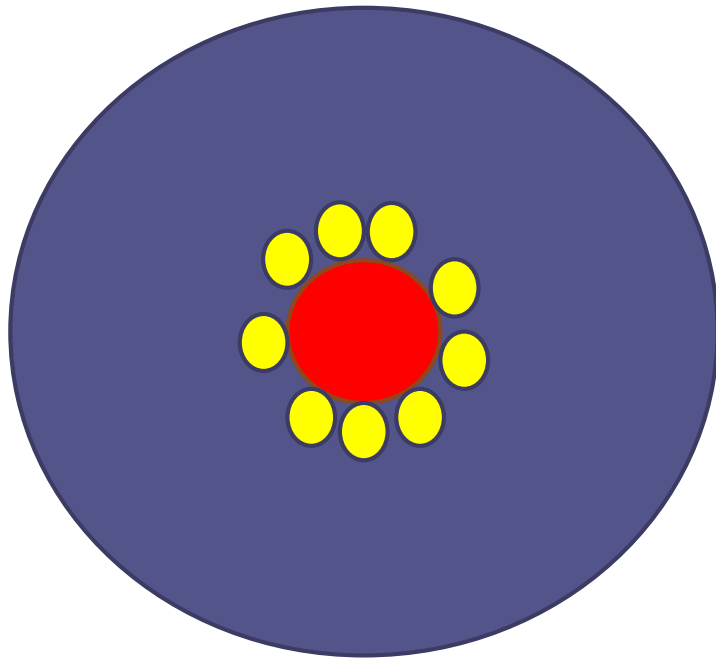
- **HEAT** and **LIGHT**
- Lamp versus Heater
 - NEVER use a heating pad
- Coloured bulb recommended



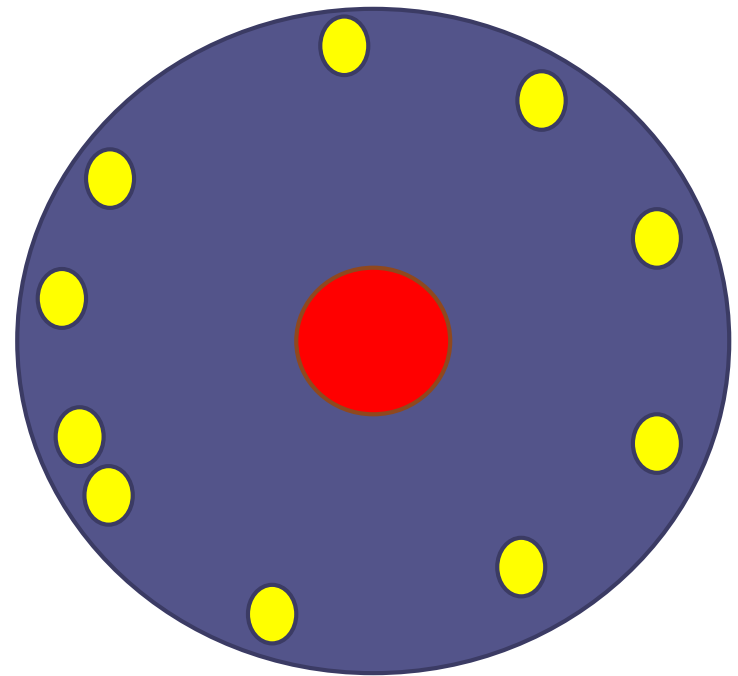
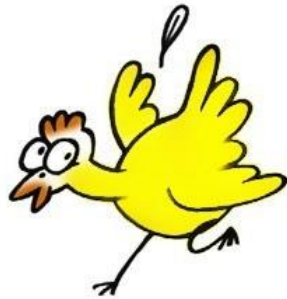
Temperature

- Generally maintained by lamp
 - Adjust by adjusting lamp height
- Measurement
 - Thermometer in center and on the edge
- Start at 90-95° F, and reduce by 5° F each week

Age (days)	Temperature
0	90-95° F
7	85-90° F
14	80-85° F
21	75-80° F



Too Cold!



Too Warm!

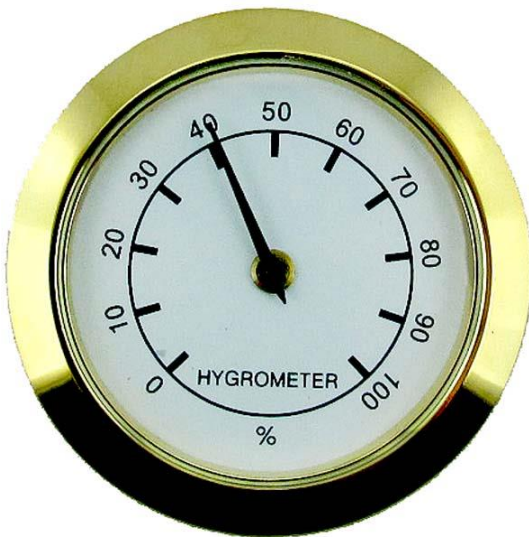
Ventilation

- Prevent ammonia build-up
- Open containers with mesh/wire top



Humidity

- 30-50% during first week
- 40-60% after first week
- Measured with a hygrometer



Bedding

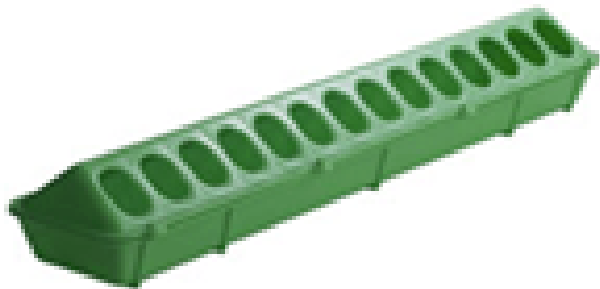
- Absorbent litter material
- Pine shavings, rice hull
- NOT
 - Straw
 - Hardwood shavings (oak)
 - Paper

Change bedding
often!



Feed

- ‘Starter’ or ‘Chick’ feed
 - Fed for the first 1-8 weeks
 - HIGH protein (20%)
- Medicated versus Unmedicated
- Feeders
 - Open or trough
 - Bell feeders



Water

- Clean and **ALWAYS** available
- Consistent system
- Medications



Mortality



- If your mortality is high... there IS a reason!
- Expected mortality varies
 - 1-2% with otherwise healthy chicks is expected
- Excessive mortality – necropsy chicks

Types of Brooding Set-Ups

- Indoors



Types of Brooding Set-Ups

- Outdoor

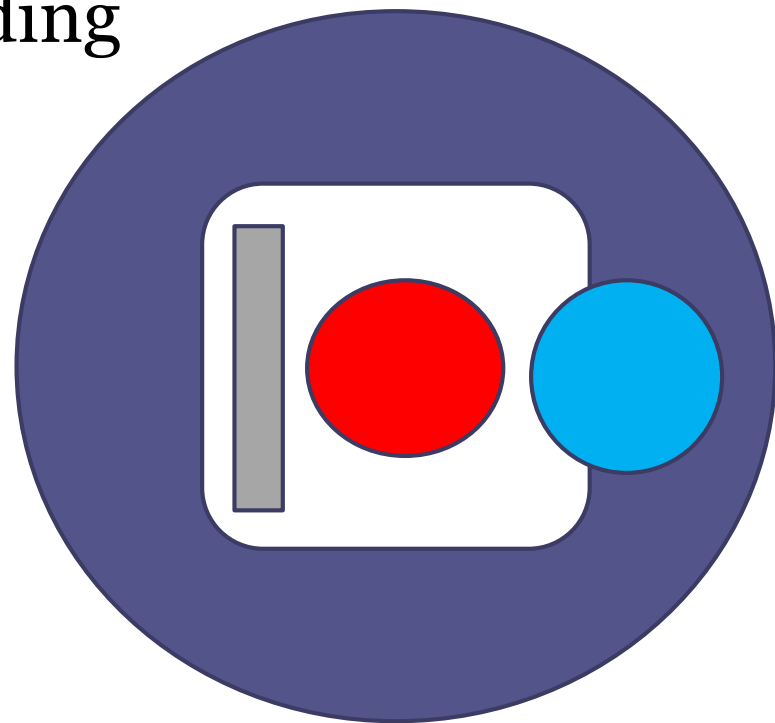


Can you spot the problems?



Preparing for Chicks

- Clean, clean, clean!
- Turn on light ahead of time - minimum of 6 hours prior to placement
- Clean feed, water, and bedding
- Newspaper



Chick Sources

- Feed Stores, Mail-order, Breeder, Home Hatch
- Pick your chicks wisely!





Common Difficulties

- Environmental
 - Temperature
 - Wet Litter
- Chick
 - Pasty Butt
 - Infected navel
 - Dehydrated
 - Not Eating
 - Picking
 - High Mortality



When to Stop?

- Chicks are feathered and able to thermoregulate
- Outdoor temperatures are acceptable





Questions?