



# Plymouth County Extension 4-H Youth Development Program



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## Care of Hatching Eggs

1. DO NOT wash eggs unless necessary. If it is necessary to wash eggs always use a damp cloth with water warmer than the egg. This causes the egg to sweat the dirt out of the pores. Never use water cooler than the egg. Also, do not soak the eggs in water. If the egg is allowed to soak in water for a period of time, the temperature difference can equalize and bacteria has a greater chance of entering through the pores.
2. Store the clean fertile eggs in an area which is kept at 55°- 60°F and 70-75% humidity. Never store eggs at temperatures about 75°F and at humidity's lower than 40%. These conditions can decrease hatchability dramatically in a very short period of time.
3. Slant or turn the fertile eggs daily while they are being stored. Store the eggs small end down and slanted at 30-45 degrees. Putting a piece of 2" x 4" under one end of the carton or storage container and changing it to the other end daily works well.
4. Do not store eggs for more than 10-14 days. After 14 days of storage, hatchability begins to decline significantly.
5. Just before setting the eggs, allow them to warm to room temperature (70-80°F) and remove any cracked eggs