



To borrow an incubator contact:
byrd.282@osu.edu

Incubation Questions & Chick Drop-off
hogan.239@osu.edu

Candling is a process where a special light is held up to the fertilized eggs to show the chicks moving inside. You may schedule candling between days 14-16 at the time of your incubator reservation. Be sure to coordinate the visit across all classrooms, etc. and schedule early by emailing hogan.239@osu.edu.

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Guidelines for Borrowing Chick Incubators 2024-25

Franklin County OSU Extension



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Incubator Borrowing Guidelines:

Hatching chicks in your setting using the 4-H CHICKQUEST curriculum can be fun and educational! If you are borrowing an incubator from OSU Extension in Franklin County, then there are some steps in the process:

- The incubators can be reserved in advance but are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The incubators and accompanying materials cost around \$200. For this reason, a \$150 check will be collected at time of loan made out to *OSU Extension, Franklin County*. Your check will be held uncashed until the incubator and materials are returned in good and clean condition on the due date, four weeks later. At that time, it will be returned to you.
- You will need to come to our office at a pre-arranged time to pick up and return the incubator.
- You can purchase the eggs yourself which are available year-round from many internet suppliers at a cost of about \$2.00 each. Although we do not recommend any company, teachers in the area have used Meyer Hatchery at www.meyerhatchery.com. The fertilized eggs must have come from a hatchery with an Ohio National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). If you received your eggs from Meyer Hatchery than you are o.k.
- Please note that we only support chick incubation and not ducks or quail.
- A CHICKQUEST teacher guide is on loan with the incubator, and free to first time participants. You can buy your own guide at : <https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/chickquest-a-classroom-journey-through-a-life-cycle-teacher-guide/> or you can purchase them at a slightly reduced rate from our office if you pick them up. Email Christina Byrd at byrd.282@osu.edu for current rates and to order books.
- Due to the threat of Avian Flu which is not harmful to humans, chick incubation can be cancelled at any time by the state veterinarian. This is to protect the poultry industry and also the consumer who may experience higher food costs if Avian Flu is detected.

Borrowing Guidelines, cont.

Individuals borrowing incubators are expected to take care of them, and to treat chicks humanely. We also recommend that children do not touch the eggs or chicks, and that hand-washing guides be followed by adults who do. Some schools have put a live camera on their fertilized eggs and linked it to their school website. If your school/organization has this capacity, it makes the experience a fun one for those in the educational community,

What to do with the chicks if you need a home for them:

If you do not have a home for the chicks your first step is to check with others in your school/organization. Many individuals have a connection to a someone who raises chickens in areas of Franklin County where they are permitted to do so. Please make sure that individuals taking chicks have the means to take care of them, and that they will be treated ethically. Do not send chicks home with children; an adult needs to come and get them. Also, If you do find a home for the chicks, then you are required to keep and maintain a form stating the location in the event Avian Flu is ever detected.

We can also help you find a home for the chicks, **but for their health and wellbeing we are only able to do so from February - September as this**

allows them to better acclimate to colder temperatures. Please note that there is never a guarantee for this service. All chicks go to an area farm and are treated ethically. You will need to bring the chicks to the Kunz-Brundige OSU Extension office on the OSU Campus at Waterman Farm. We are located at 2548 Carmack Rd. You must let us know at least **21 days in advance** (when you put the eggs in the incubator) that you will be bringing in the chicks, and we will schedule your drop off date.

We do not take chicks 10 days after hatch, as we do not have the means in our office to take care of larger birds. Also, we only take chicks, not ducklings or any other poultry.

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