

# Temperature of the Incubator

Temperature is probably the most important single factor influencing the development of the embryo. The optimum temperature for incubating chicken eggs is **100° F**. An acceptable operating range would be 99-101°F.

Operating the incubator at 105°F for 30 minutes will seriously harm, if not kill, the embryo. Slightly low temperatures for short periods will have a less severe effect than high temperatures. Temperatures between 97° - 103°F will not adversely affect the embryos.

Keep in mind that variances in the temperature will change the time that the chicks will hatch. A one-half degree change in average incubation temperature will move the average hatch time by about 5.4 hours. Therefore if the temperature averages 99°F (one full degree **below** optimum) the hatching will be **delayed** by about 10.8 hours. On the other hand, if the temperature averages 103°F (one full degree **above** optimum) the hatching will be **early** by 10.8 hours.

For this project, any eggs not hatched by Thursday morning will most likely not hatch and should be discarded.