

Leading Irish hatchery sees real benefits from single stage incubation

In the 1970s John Mawer, who had previously worked with Cobb in Ireland, started a small commercial breeding operation to supply small independent hatcheries in Eire. This business steadily evolved and then, in the early 1980s, a small hatchery near Dublin failed to pay for their hatching eggs and John acquired their order book and went into hatching.

This was a good steady business and by 1992 he had acquired a second hatchery in County Kildare. In 2000 the hatchery facilities of the former Monaghan Poultry Products were acquired after it went into liquidation and production approached 400,000 day olds a week.

Right at the centre

Out of this grew Annyalla Chicks and recently International Hatchery Practice went to visit their new hatchery that is virtually on the border of Eire and Northern



The AirStreamer setters at Annyalla Chicks.

Ireland border and right in the heart of the Irish poultry industry.

Today the hatchery's eggs come from 580,000 broiler breeders, of which some 300,000 or so are on the company's own farms and the remainder come from a select number of contract supply flocks.

John supervises the breeders, while his
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Left, all hatching eggs in Ireland have to be identified with farm of origin. Above, CIP facilities are available throughout the hatchery. Below, left, the egg store and, right, the older Petersime machines that are still performing well.



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son, also called John, is responsible for the hatchery operation and day old sales.

Today, some 1.4 million day olds are hatched a week with some 300-400,000 per week going into the UK market where the company also contract hatches some of its eggs.

The hatching eggs come from farms close to the hatchery as well as a cluster of farms some 4-5 hours away in Limerick.

Four collections a week are taken from the bigger farms, whereas eggs are shipped from the smaller farms when enough eggs have been collected to fill an egg vehicle. All eggs are fumigated on receipt at the hatchery.

Currently, most of the breeders are Ross 308s with some Cobb and Hubbard JA57s. These last breeders produce Hubbard JA575 broiler day olds.

Routine vaccinations

The broiler breeder parent flocks are routinely vaccinated against Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis and Gumboro disease as well as Marek's disease. The flocks are free of Salmonella enteritidis and typhimurium.

Five settings are placed per week. Two of these are large settings (345,000 eggs) and three are smaller (230,000 eggs).

Currently, overall mean hatchability is 80% with an overall hatch of fertile figure approaching 90%. To maintain a steady egg flow breeders are placed in blocks of 40,000 either as part of one of the larger farms or by combining two or more smaller contract flocks.

The original hatchery had Petersime 576 setters which John found were good, straightforward machines to operate.

In the extension to the hatchery Annyalla Chicks chose to go with Petersime's AirStreamer setters. This was because the AirStreamer gave them a further 1% of hatchability on top of that being achieved by the 576s.

In addition, the single stage AirStreamer



Above, the AirStreamer hatchers and, right, chick grading.

gave benefits in terms of hygiene as well as more consistency with fewer unexplained dips in hatchability over time.

Excellent service

The other thing that was in Petersime's favour was the support and service they had given to the company over the years. If a spare part was not on the shelves of the Irish agent it could be flown into Dublin from Petersime's Belgian operation and be at the hatchery within 24 hours!

Eggs come into the hatchery on setter flats and are then transferred to setter trolleys before being held at 17-18°C and a relative humidity of 65% until they are needed for setting.

Fumigation is in a special, purpose built facility and uses formaldehyde prills.

When the hatchery was acquired much of the egg and chick processing equipment was



Breuil, but over the years the hatchery has moved over to equipment from John Haycock. In the chick processing area blue light is used. ■

Left, chick removal from the hatcher trays and, right, wetting of debris in the hatcher trays before tipping and tray washing.

