

# Giving chicks a headstart with light, feed and water in the hatcher

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Chickens do not have access to feed, water and light during hatch. This means that the chick hatches, and has to wait the entire 'hatch window' without feed, water and light.

However, these chicks are still undergoing development in terms of their digestive tract, organs, immune and thermoregulatory systems – the actual growth phase does not start until later. And at this early phase, optimal digestive and immune system development in particular are crucial in laying the foundation for the chick's resulting overall growth and health.

The best source of feed (energy) to enhance these critical development processes is the nutrient rich residual yolk sack, and it is very important that it is actually used for this. However, if there is no external source of feed available, the energy in the yolk will just be spent on basic maintenance instead of to boost development.

What are the benefits?

- Use of yolk for the immune system, not just to survive.
- Better development of the critical organs.
- Better chick quality.

## Fresh water

As soon as a chick hatches, it begins to lose moisture as a result of breath evaporation, leading to an average 8% decrease in body weight.

HatchCare is giving chick's access to water during the hatch window period. Drinking gutters in the special basket provide a continuous supply of fresh flowing water.

This is the only system that provides chicks with the basic necessity of water from the moment they hatch, responding not only to what the chick needs for optimal development, but also to modern demands for more animal friendly production.



What are the benefits:

- No loss of 8% body weight, instead an increase of body weight.
- Less second grade chicks due to no dehydration.
- Complies with all modern demands for animal friendly production.
- Better chick quality.

## More space and freedom

In the HatchCare Basket, chicks can move around freely, thanks to the generous dimensions and the fact that it contains no unhatched eggs or empty shells.

Compared to other systems, newly hatched chicks have 40% more space.

This fits well with modern demands for more animal welfare friendly production.

What are the benefits:

- More healthier chicks due to free movement.
- Less injuries due to egg shells.
- Complies with all modern demands for animal friendly production.

## No cracks, easier pipping

When you look at traditional hatcheries it is rather strange that you transfer the eggs from a point down position in the setter tray, to a

horizontal position in the hatcher basket.

In the HatchCare system, eggs are not placed loose in a basket, but are individually supported by surrounding pins in which they are placed point down.

This prevents eggs from bumping into each other and developing cracks, which can often occur during handling when working with a basket.



What are the benefits:

- Less cracks due to handling.
- Easier pipping/hatching for the chick because of point down setting.
- Higher hatchability.

## Quiet, calm environment

HatchCare is illuminated inside (272 Lux at chick level), which makes it easy for just-hatched chicks to find the water and feed. What is more, because they immediately start becoming conditioned to an illuminated environment, chicks are not startled and scared – which induces stress – when the hatcher door is opened.

It also features a motor with a noise level that is 18% dB lower than those traditionally used. The sound of the motor, which can also create anxiety in chicks, is reduced to just a soft hum in the background.

What are the benefits:

- Less stress because light is already provided during hatching.
- Less stress because of lower noise levels inside machine.
- Complies with all modern demands for animal friendly production.

