



VENT TEMPERATURE IN BROILERS AND BROILER BREEDERS

AVIAGEN MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS



WHY IS CHICK COMFORT IMPORTANT?

- When chicks hatch they are not able to control their body temperature.
- If chicks are too hot or cold they will be stressed, use more energy and, if too hot, will pant and lose water at a faster rate.
- Chicks that are not at the correct temperature will have poorer performance.



HOW TO MEASURE CHICK COMFORT

- Chick comfort can be determined by measuring chick vent temperature using a medical ear thermometer.
- Chick vent temperature is highly correlated with deep body temperature, although it tends to be 0.6°C cooler.
- The optimum chick vent temperature is 39.4 – 40.5°C.
- Monitor chick behavior; chicks use behavior to help control their body temperature.

Chicks that are too cold, below 39.4°C, start to huddle and have cold legs and feet.



Too cold below 39.4°C

Chicks at correct temperature are quiet and evenly spread out in the box.



Correct temp: 39.4°C - 40.5°C

Chicks that are too hot, above 40.5°C, start panting.



Too hot above 40.5°C

WHEN AND WHERE TO MEASURE CHICK VENT TEMPERATURE

Chick vent temperature should be used to check chick comfort in hatchers, chick rooms, chick trucks and during the first 4 to 5 days of brooding.



Measuring vent temperature is a good way of determining if environmental conditions are correct for the chicks. In the first 4 to 5 days after hatch, vent temperature should be 39.4°C to 40.5°C

PROCEDURE TO MEASURE CHICK VENT TEMPERATURE

Equipment Required:
Infrared Ear thermometer.

Recommended Brand:
Braun ThermoScan thermometer.



STEP 1:



Collect at least 10 chicks from at least five different locations in the house.

Pay particular attention to hot or cold areas of the house (e.g., walls or under brooders). If chicks are huddling do not select chicks from the center of the huddle.

Check that the measuring tip of the thermometer is clean and has a new plastic cover on.

STEP 2:



Gently pick up the chick and hold it so that the vent is exposed.

Reject any chicks with wet or dirty vents.

STEP 3:



Put the tip of the ThermoScan gently onto the vent, making sure it only touches bare skin, and press the button.

Wait for the light to stop flashing, and note the temperature on a recording sheet.



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