

Smoky Mountain Homestead Hatching Eggs

For those of you who do not want baby chicks already hatched and wanting to experience the thrill of watching life form and baby chicks hatching out of an egg, then this is for you.

Generally speaking, all of our breeds should hatch at a rate of 70-80%. We suggest you order more than what you are wanting to hatch.

We do not guarantee hatch rate but we will replace any unhatched eggs ONE time.

Buyer to arrange pickup, we do not ship.

We have a mixed flock of

- Black Australorp
- Rhode Island Reds (Heritage Breed)
- Leghorn (Landrace Breed)
- Red Rangers
- Easter Eggers
- Welsummer (Heritage breed)

All of our breeds are considered egg-layers while some are considered dual-purpose. Meaning they are raised for both eggs and meat.

Hatching eggs are straight run and mixed breeds. We do not offer returns for roosters or breed specifics.

How to Incubate Eggs

- Eggs should go into the incubator or under the hen within 1 day of receipt.
- The large round end of an egg standing up and the pointed end of the egg goes down in the incubator rack.
- Do NOT dip eggs in warm or hot water to clean, this often drives bacteria into the protective shell.
- Eggs to be placed under a broody hen should be done at night time, taking her eggs out from underneath her and slowly putting the new eggs back under her.
- Please have your incubator running at least two days in advance of an anticipated pickup.
- Incubator temperature should be set around 99.5-100 degrees F.
- The direct or relative humidity reading should be around 50-55% at a 99-100 degree F reading.
- If you are using wet bulb humidity reading it should be around 80-85%. These are recommended settings during the first 18 days of incubation.
- In the last 3 days of the incubation/hatching period, the humidity can be increased by 5-10%.
- It is highly recommended to have an automatic egg turner for the incubator that automatically turns the eggs every 1-4 hours.
- It is harder to regulate the humidity and temp if you are constantly opening the incubator to turn the eggs.
- For best results, stop turning the eggs 3 days before they hatch and lay the eggs down flat on a tray and don't touch or move them around until they are completely hatched out and dried completely.
- Removing the baby chicks before they are dried completely could cause them to get sick.

Smoky Mountain Homestead
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