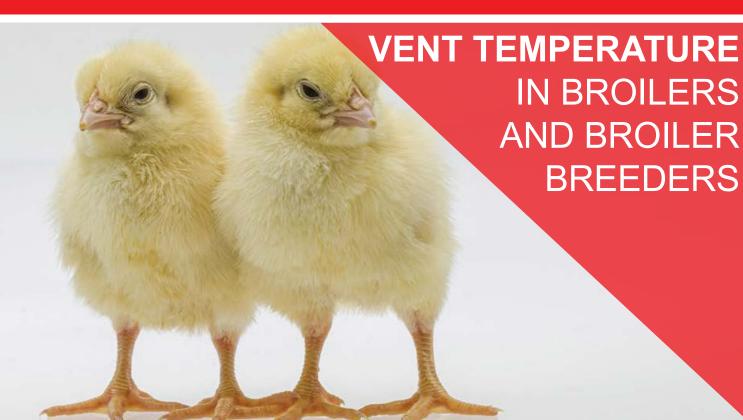




THE INSIDE CHIRP

POULTRY NEWS VOL 17



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.

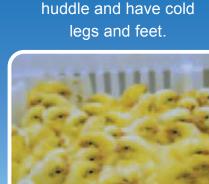
Chicks at correct

temperature are quiet

and evenly spread out in

the box.

- The optimum chick vent temperature is 39.4 40.5°C.
- Monitor chick behavior; chicks use behavior to help control their body temperature.



Too cold below 39.4°C

Chicks that are too cold,

below 39.4°C, start to



panting.

Chicks that are too hot,

above 40.5°C, start



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.

WHEN AND WHERE TO MEASURE CHICK VENT TEMPERATURE



40.5°C





PROCEDURE TO MEASURE CHICK VENT TEMPERATURE

Infrared Ear thermometer.

STEP 1:

Recommended Brand:

Braun ThermoScan thermometer.

Equipment Required:



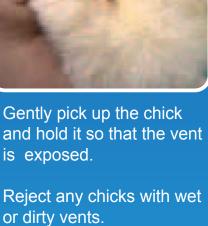
huddling do not select chicks from the center of the huddle.

Pay particular attention to

house (e.g., walls or under

hot or cold areas of the

brooders). If chicks are



STEP 2:



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.

