

Re: muscovy duck –RIP

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.agriculture.poultry/2005–09/msg00063.html>

- *From:* "Christina Websell" <spamfree@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 5 Sep 2005 22:06:07 +0100
-

"diddy" <diddy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:Xns96C8A825BF0BCdanny@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> in thread news:Omelet–C6CE34.15123105092005@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:
> OmManiPadmeOmelet <Omelet@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> whittled the following words:
>
>> In article <Xns96C8A1CB1CCF0danny@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,
>> diddy <diddy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:
>>
>>> I just checked him, as I hadn't checked him for an hour. He just died
>>
>> I'm so sorry..... :-(
>>
>> I hope you have better luck on the next hatch attempt.
>>
>> What kind of incubator are you using?
>
> A little giant still air incubator (9200) with a 7200 circulated air fan
> kit, and the 6200 automatic egg turner.

I have always found artificial incubation to be difficult. There are so many variables. It's very important, for example, not to let the sun's rays fall on your incubator. I always pull the drapes in the spare bedroom I have my incubator in. What water or not you put in the trays depends on the weather, is it dry and the ambient humidity is low, or has it been raining? Etc, etc.

I have had some fantastic hatches, almost 100%, and doing exactly the same things, 25%.

It can be very upsetting to see chicks not being able to get out, and all the various problems that artificial incubation in a small incubator can cause, like fully formed chicks not able to get into the air space so dying in shell. That's a humidity problem too.

I was very successful at hatching ducklings and one or two geese, so I assumed the ambient humidity was too high for chicks.

I bought a dehumidifier for the room, but it didn't make much difference to the hatch rate, although it gave me a lot of distilled water to offer to my neighbours for their steam irons.

I have come to the conclusion that a broody hen is the very best of all at hatching chicks!! Borrow one next year. Muscovy ducks are usually good

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sitters too, if you wanted muskies again. A good hen will sit long enough to hatch them too, but you must make sure she eats every day as it's over a month.

I am not particularly in favour of using hens to hatch ducks or geese. Oh, they can do it very easily and they mother them just as well as chicks, but it really freaks the hens out when their "chicks" go into the water. It can really distress them.

Tina

• **References:**

◆ **[Re: muscovy duck –RIP](#)**

◇ *From:* OmManiPadmeOmelet

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