

Chick length protocol

Chick length is an effective and practical method to evaluate chick quality. You only need:

- the chick length recording form,
- a ruler,
- digital chick length analysis program

In 7 steps you will have a clear evaluation of your chick quality

Chick quality can be used to evaluate two different goals.

Goal A: To evaluate the incubation process, egg handling, shell quality, and breeder flock influence.

Goal B: To evaluate the quality of the chicks delivered to the farm.

Step 1: Chick Sampling

The method to sample chicks is different for each goal. Choose your goal, select the chicks and continue with Step 2

Goal A: • Select at random 5 baskets from the hatcher (before chicks are graded or culled).

- Randomly select 20 chicks from each of the 5 baskets (in total 100 chicks).

Goal B: • Take one basket with 100 chicks that is ready for transportation (after culling and selection).

Step 2: Align the tip of the beak on the end of the ruler and stretch the chick along the ruler.

Step 3: Measure the total length of the chick from the tip of the beak to the end of the middle toe. Stretch the chick to obtain an accurate measurement.

Step 4: Measure the chick length to the nearest 0.5 centimeter and record it in the correct category on the chick length analysis form. For example: when the chick length is between 19.5 and 19.9 cm, record it on the form in the category $19.5 < 20.0$ cm.

Step 5: Count the total number of chicks per category.

Step 6: Enter the total number of chicks in each category in the digital chick length analysis program. The program will automatically calculate the percentage of chicks in each category, the average chick length, and the percentage of small chicks.

Step 7: To evaluate the chick length data, [click here](#)

