

## Helpful Tips & How to's

Welcome to the Meka Farm Hatch Your Flock Project!

### What's included:

- 1 dozen (12 chicken eggs)
- 1 habitat with cage
- 1 egg candling light
- 1 Brinsea Mini II Incubator with instruction manual
- 1 half-gallon bag of organic chicken crumbles
- 1 bag of pine shavings
- 1 habitat log
- 1 heat mat
- 2 water bottles

### What's Not Included:

- A towel to place between your surface and the heat mat
- A second towel to partially cover the caged habitat
- Newspaper or paper towels to line the bottom of the habitat before filling with shavings
- A small bowl for food

### Helpful Tips:

- The incubator "should" come pre-programmed for chicken eggs. If you need help deciphering the instruction manual to check the settings, please feel free to call or text (603-493-6370) or email [mekafarmnh@gmail.com](mailto:mekafarmnh@gmail.com).
- Check the Water Reservoir in the incubator every 2 days or so to make sure there is water in the reservoir and bowl.
- 3-4 days before your expected hatch date, set up the habitat.
  - Find a steady, flat surface to place the habitat on that is near an electrical
  - Place down a towel that is the same or similar in size to the heat mat.
    - Lay the heat mat on top of the table
    - Place half of the habitat bottom over the heat mat
    - Sprinkle pine shavings in the habitat (you may want to save some to freshen up the litter after the first week or so)
    - Place the habitat log in an area where it will be settled over the heat mat (this helps trap the heat for the chicks)
  - Put the cage top over the habitat bottom.
    - Cover the back and sides with a towel (again, this helps to trap heat)
    - Place the water bottles and a bowl of food in the habitat.

### AFTER CHICKS HAVE HATCHED

1. Let them dry off a bit in the incubator before placing in the habitat
2. It's ok to remove broken shells after the chicks have hatched as long as another chick is not actively hatching
3. Introduce the chicks to the habitat
  - a. Gently dip their beaks in the food dish
  - b. Gently tap the water bottle bead with the chick's beak.
    - i. Chicks LOVE shiny objects. However, if you do not see your chicks pecking at the water bottles after 24 hours then place a small bowl of water into the habitat - they will find it and will not need to be introduced to it.