

## Getting Ready for the Eggs

Upon approval of project funding, all participants will receive information about TIC and equipment at the start of the school year.

The eggs will be picked up in early December from the Wytheville State Hatchery or the Paintbank State Hatchery. Teachers may be asked to pick up their own eggs if another method of distribution is unavailable. Contact the TIC coordinator for more information.

Those schools making a field trip to the hatchery with the students may pick up their own eggs; please inform the TIC coordinator for assistance prior to scheduling this event.

### **30 Days Before Eggs Are To Be Picked Up . . .**

- Assemble all parts for aquarium setup and fill the tank with water.
- Turn on the filter; let water equilibrate.
- Turn on chiller and make sure it is working correctly

### **One Week Before Eggs Are To Be Picked Up . . .**

- Set the chiller thermostat temperature to register around 54 degrees F. *Please rely only on the digital thermometer when reading water temperature.*
- Test and record water parameters on the results worksheet; do not worry if the pH is around 8.

### **One Day Before Eggs Are To Be Picked Up . . .**

- Turn on the UV light.
- Verify the water temperature is between 50-55°F
- Position the egg basket(s) in the tank. Locate it at the opposite end from the water flow and not directly over the air stone. There should not be a strong or direct flow of water on the egg basket(s).
- Placed the air stone near the egg basket(s), but not directly underneath.

### **Egg Arrival Day!**

**If Picking Up Your Own Eggs from Hatchery:** (Otherwise your eggs will be delivered.)

Transport personnel should bring the following supplies:

1. a transport cooler large enough to handle items below
2. bag(s) of ice
3. a tray that fits into the bottom of the cooler
4. additional trays with holes in them to place eggs on and to place one on top for ice
5. several pieces of cheesecloth to bundle the eggs in (two per bundle)
6. a cloth to cover the eggs

At the pick-up site, the 200+/- eggs, will be in a mesh or cheese cloth bundle. The best way to keep the eggs moist is to put a cloth over the eggs and wet them down with the water from the hatchery.

Pack the eggs for transport in this order – ice in the bottom tray; egg bundles in trays and covered with a cloth; gently pour a small amount of hatchery water over cloth to keep eggs moist; tray on top with ice to create a drip onto the egg bundles

**During transport, keep a close eye on the trout by making sure the eggs stay moist and the cooler does turn over.**

**Placing the eggs in the tank:**

The eggs will need time to acclimate to the tank. Let the *egg transport tray* float in the tank. Add approximately ½ cup of tank water every 10 minutes to the tray. After 30 minutes, remove the eggs from the cheese cloth and pour the eggs into the hatching basket.

**What to look for:**

Movement during delivery of the eggs can weaken the outer layer of the shell. This can create weak spots or broken areas. These spots are vulnerable to fungal infection.

- Watch for any eggs with white spots. Using a turkey baster pick them out of the basket. The white spots are a fungus that spreads **REALLY** fast. Pick out spotted eggs twice a day if possible—especially check last thing on Friday afternoon.
- Watch that the outer egg shell remain translucent. Uniform cloudiness can be okay, it might be just the trout development.
- An egg with any opaque spots (or fully opaque) will not develop and should be removed. This egg was possibly not fertilized to begin with.