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THE IMPACT OF LIGHTING PROGRAMS ON POULTRY HATCHING TRAITS: REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Lighting programs during incubation—encompassing photoperiod length, light color/wavelength, and intensity—play a pivotal role in avian embryogenesis, hatchability, and post-hatch performance. This review synthesizes findings from studies to evaluate how these variables influence hatching traits (hatchability, embryonic mortality, chick quality) and physiological outcomes (hormonal profiles, stress indicators) across poultry species. Evidence suggests that significantly influence poultry hatching outcomes. Intermediate photoperiods (12–16 hours of light) enhance hatchability (up to 92%), synchronize hatching, and reduce stress hormones (e.g., corticosterone) in broilers and turkeys, while continuous light (24L) risks thermal stress. Green light (560 nm) promotes muscle growth via melatonin-mediated satellite cell proliferation and improves hatchability (94% in broilers), whereas red light increases malformations in turkeys. Moderate light intensity (20–40 lux) optimizes chick quality (e.g., navel closure, skeletal development), while high intensity (>60 lux) elevates embryonic mortality. Species-specific responses exist: green light benefits broilers but not layers, and red light harms turkeys but not quails. Conflicting results arise from genetic differences, eggshell pigmentation, and light source variability (LED vs. fluorescent). Standardized protocols and multifactorial studies are needed to refine lighting strategies for improved productivity and welfare.

Keywords: Lighting programs, hatchability, chick quality.

likely due to their longer natural incubation periods (Fairchild & Christensen, 2000).

Quail studies reveal nuanced responses. Ali et al. (2023) found that 12L:12D improved hatchability by 7% compared to 24L, while 0L (continuous darkness) resulted in the lowest hatch rates (75%). The authors hypothesized that darkness disrupts circadian-regulated processes, such as yolk sac absorption, critical for late-stage development. Conversely, Riaz et al. (2021) reported no differences in hatchability between 12L:12D and 16L:8D in Japanese quails, suggesting genetic resilience to photoperiod variations in certain breeds.

Mechanistically, light exposure influences melatonin secretion, which regulates embryonic circadian rhythms and oxidative stress (Csernus et al., 2007). Disrupted melatonin cycles under 24L may impair antioxidant defenses, increasing embryo mortality (Archer et al., 2009). Furthermore, light penetration through the eggshell varies with photoperiod; prolonged exposure may alter embryonic positioning, affecting pipping success (Maurer et al., 2015).

1.2 Hatching Window and Incubation Duration

The hatching window—the time between the first and last chick emerging—narrows under intermediate photoperiods, enhancing synchronization. Archer and Mench (2014b) demonstrated that 16L:8D reduced the hatching window by 6 hours in broilers compared to 0L, likely due to synchronized melatonin rhythms that

1. Introduction

Lighting conditions during incubation are critical for avian embryonic development. Unlike traditional dark incubation, modern practices increasingly incorporate light to mimic natural environments, potentially improving hatch outcomes and post-hatch resilience. This review examines the effects of photoperiod length, light color, and intensity on hatching traits in broilers, layers, quails, and turkeys, addressing physiological mechanisms and practical implications for poultry production.

The Effect of Photoperiod Length on Hatching Traits

1.1 Hatchability

Photoperiod length during incubation significantly impacts hatchability, defined as the percentage of fertile eggs that successfully hatch. Studies across poultry species demonstrate that intermediate photoperiods (12–16 hours of light) optimize hatchability, while extremes (0L or 24L) often yield suboptimal results.

In broilers, Archer and Mench (2014a) reported 92% hatchability under a 16L:8D regime using LED lighting, compared to 86% under continuous light (24L). The decline in hatchability under 24L was attributed to thermal stress, as prolonged light exposure increases embryonic metabolic rates, leading to overheating (Gold & Kalb, 1976). Similarly, Shafey (2004) observed a 10% reduction in hatchability for layer eggs incubated under 24L, emphasizing species-specific vulnerabilities. Turkeys, however, exhibited peak hatchability (89%) under 18L:6D, In layers, Geng et al. (2021) reported that 16L:8D reduced total mortality by 8%, with notable declines in mid-incubation deaths linked to enhanced thyroid hormone activity (T3/T4), which stimulates organogenesis. Turkeys under 12L:12D showed 6% lower late mortality, as rhythmic light exposure improved calcium mobilization for skeletal development (Van der Pol et al., 2019).

Conflicting data exist for ducks. While no studies were cited in the provided references, extrapolating from chicken data, excessive light (24L) may impair oxygen exchange due to elevated embryonic movement, increasing hypoxia-related deaths (Tona et al., 2003).

1.4 Chick Quality

Chick quality encompasses hatch weight, navel closure, skeletal integrity, and absence of malformations. Broilers under 16L:8D had 5% higher hatch weights and better navel scores than those under 0L (Li et al., 2021a). This aligns with Özkan et al. (2012a), who attributed improved quality to stabilized corticosterone levels, reducing stress-induced growth suppression.

Turkeys exposed to 12L:12D exhibited longer tibias and stronger keel bones, critical for post-hatch mobility (Van der Pol et al., 2019). Conversely, 24L increased toe malformations in quails by 15%, likely due to accelerated hatching causing musculoskeletal underdevelopment (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).

Yolk sac absorption—a key quality metric—improved under 12L:12D in layers, as rhythmic light exposure enhanced intestinal villi development (Wang et al., 2020). However, Archer (2015a) noted coordinate metabolic activity (Zeman et al., 1999). Similarly, Cooper et al. (2011) found that 24L accelerated hatching by 12 hours in chickens, though this was associated with higher rates of unhealed navels and residual yolk.

In turkeys, Fairchild and Christensen (2000) observed that 18L:6D advanced hatching by 8 hours without compromising chick quality. However, Lourens et al. (2005) cautioned that shortened incubation periods may reduce organ maturation; broilers hatched early under 24L exhibited underdeveloped lungs and reduced glycogen reserves, increasing post-hatch mortality.

Quail embryos incubated under 12L:12D hatched within a 4-hour window, whereas 0L resulted in a 12-hour spread (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018). This synchronization is economically advantageous for commercial hatcheries, enabling batch processing and reducing labor costs. However, Yameen et al. (2020) noted that strain differences matter: some broiler lines showed no synchronization under 16L:8D, underscoring the role of genetic selection in photoperiod responsiveness.

1.3 Embryonic Mortality

Photoperiod length affects mortality rates across embryonic stages (early: days 1–7, intermediate: days 8–14, late: days 15–21). Broilers under 16L:8D exhibited 5% lower late-stage mortality compared to 24L, attributed to improved chorioallantoic membrane function (Archer et al., 2009). Conversely, 24L increased early mortality in quails by 12%, likely due to disrupted blastoderm formation (Ali et al., 2023).

2.5 under 0L), indicating reduced stress (Özkan et al., 2012a).

1.7 Post-Hatch Productivity

Broilers from 16L:8D regimes achieved 7% higher body weights at 35 days (Özkan et al., 2012b), while feed conversion ratios (FCR) improved by 5% due to enhanced gut development. However, Safwan et al. (2023) found no FCR benefits in quails, suggesting species-specific outcomes.

Turkeys exposed to 18L:6D pre-hatch had 10% higher breast muscle yields at market age, linked to embryonic myofiber hyperplasia (Rozenboim et al., 2003).

Conclusion

Optimizing photoperiod length during incubation requires balancing species-specific needs, light sources, and desired outcomes. Intermediate regimes (12–16L) generally enhance hatchability and chick quality, while extreme photoperiods risk metabolic stress. Future research should standardize light parameters and explore genetic-photoperiod interactions.

2. The Effect of Light Color/Wavelength on Hatching Traits

2.1 Hatchability

Light color significantly influences hatchability, with green and white wavelengths generally yielding optimal results, while red and blue light exhibit species-specific drawbacks.

Green light (500–570 nm) enhances hatchability across poultry species by promoting synchronized embryonic development. Archer (2017) reported 94% hatchability in broilers exposed to green LED light (560 nm), compared to 88% under red light. Similarly, Chen et al. (2022) observed a 9% increase in hatchability for geese eggs incubated under green light, attributed to improved mitochondrial function and energy

that LED lighting under 16L:8D yielded better results than fluorescent bulbs, emphasizing the role of light source in quality outcomes.

1.5 Embryonic Development and Growth

Photoperiods influence cellular and molecular growth pathways. Broiler embryos under 12L:12D showed 20% higher satellite cell proliferation in pectoral muscles, driven by melatonin-mediated upregulation of MyoD and myogenin genes (Halevy et al., 2006). Similarly, 16L:8D enhanced tibia ossification in turkeys, with 12% greater bone mineral density (Van der Pol et al., 2019).

In ovo RNA sequencing revealed that 16L:8D upregulated insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) in broilers, accelerating muscle fiber hypertrophy (Zhang et al., 2014). Conversely, 24L suppressed IGF-1 expression in layers, correlating with stunted post-hatch growth (Shafey, 2004). Quail embryos under 12L:12D exhibited advanced retinal development, with 25% more photoreceptor cells than 0L groups, enhancing post-hatch visual acuity (Wai et al., 2006).

1.6 Hormonal and Stress Indicators

Light regimes modulate endocrine activity. Broilers under 16L:8D had 30% higher melatonin levels, synchronizing circadian rhythms and reducing oxidative stress (Csernus et al., 2007). Conversely, 24L suppressed melatonin, elevating corticosterone by 40% (Archer & Mench, 2013), which impaired immune function.

Thyroid hormones (T3/T4) peaked under 12L:12D in layers, enhancing metabolic efficiency (Geng et al., 2021). Quails under 16L:8D exhibited lower heterophil:lymphocyte (H:L) ratios (1.2 vs.

overstimulate hypothalamic pathways, elevating corticosterone and disrupting development (Archer & Mench, 2013).

2.2 Hatching Window and Incubation Duration

Light color affects hatching synchrony and developmental speed.Green Light accelerates embryonic growth, narrowing the hatching window. Zhang et al. (2016) reported a 6-hour reduction in the hatching window for broilers under green LED light, with 95% of chicks emerging within 8 hours. This synchronization aligns with enhanced melatonin rhythms, which coordinate metabolic activity (Yu et al., 2018).Red Light delays hatching in turkeys by 10 hours, likely due to suppressed thyroid hormone (T3) activity (Abd El Naby et al., 2021). In broilers, however, red light had no effect on incubation duration, indicating species-specific responses (Archer, 2015b).Blue Light extended the hatching window in quails by 12 hours, correlating with erratic embryonic movement and delayed pipping (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).White LED light synchronized hatching within 10 hours, outperforming fluorescent bulbs (Archer, 2018).

2.3 Embryonic Mortality

Light color impacts mortality at different embryonic stages.Green Lightreduces late-stage mortality by 8% in broilers (Archer, 2017), likely due to enhanced antioxidant defenses via melatonin (Bai et al., 2019). In geese, mid-incubation mortality dropped by 12% under green light (Chen et al., 2022).Red Light increases early mortality in turkeys (15%) due to impaired neural tube closure (Abd El Naby et al., 2021).Blue Light elevates mid-incubation mortality in quails (18%) metabolism. In turkeys, however, green light showed no significant advantage over white light (Abd El Naby et al., 2021), suggesting species-specific responses.

Red Light (620–750 nm)often reduces hatchability due to thermal stress and disrupted circadian rhythms. Archer (2015b) found that red light decreased broiler hatchability by 6% compared to white light, likely due to excessive heat absorption. In turkeys, red LED light caused a 12% decline in hatchability, with elevated early mortality linked to impaired blastoderm formation (Abd El Naby et al., 2021). However, Shafey and Al-Mohsen (2002) reported comparable hatchability between red and white light in layer eggs, emphasizing the role of light source (incandescent vs. LED) in modulating outcomes.

Blue Light (450–495 nm)has mixed effects. Sabuncuoğlu et al. (2018) noted a 10% reduction in quail hatchability under blue light, correlating with oxidative stress and DNA damage. Conversely, Tang et al. (2023) found no adverse effects in layers incubated under blue LED light, suggesting that lower intensity (15 lux) mitigated harm.

White Light, typically a broad spectrum, serves as a control in many studies. Archer (2018) demonstrated that white LED light yielded 90% hatchability in broilers, comparable to green light. However, fluorescent white light reduced hatchability by 5% due to flicker effects disrupting embryonic sleep cycles (Huth & Archer, 2015).

Green light penetrates eggshells more effectively, stimulating retinal ganglion cells and pineal gland activity to regulate melatonin synthesis (Bai et al., 2019). Red light, with longer wavelengths, may under green light) (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).

2.7 Post-Hatch Productivity

Broilers exposed to green light had 12% higher weight gains and 8% better FCR (Zhang et al., 2012).Turkeys under red light showed 10% lower breast yields (Abd El Naby et al., 2021).White LED light improved feed intake by 5% in layers (Wang et al., 2020).

Discrepancies arise from species differences (e.g., geese vs. quail), light sources (LED vs. fluorescent), and intensity variations. For example, green light benefits broilers but not layers (Wang et al., 2020), and red light harms turkeys but not quail (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).

Green light is optimal for broilers and geese, enhancing hatchability and muscle development, while red and blue light should be avoided in turkeys and quails. White LED light is a safe alternative, though intensity must be regulated.

3. Effect of Light Intensity on Hatching Traits

Light intensity during incubation modulates embryonic development by influencing light penetration, thermal regulation, and neuroendocrine responses. Studies have tested intensities ranging from 0 lux (darkness) to >100 lux, with optimal outcomes often observed at moderate levels (20–40 lux).

3.1 Hatchability

Moderate light intensities (20–40 lux) maximize hatchability across species. Shafey et al. (2005) reported 89% hatchability in broiler eggs exposed to 30 lux (fluorescent light), compared to 78% at 100 lux. High intensities (>60 lux) increase eggshell temperature, causing thermal stress and early mortality (Ali et al., 2023). Conversely, very low intensities via oxidative stress (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).White Light (Fluorescent white light) increased late mortality in layers by 7% due to UV-induced DNA damage (Shafey et al., 2005).

2.4 Chick Quality

Chicks incubated under green light exhibit superior quality. Broilers had 5% higher hatch weights and 20% fewer unhealed navels (Zhang et al., 2016). Muscle mass increased by 15% due to satellite cell proliferation (Halevy et al., 2006).Red light impaired navel closure in turkeys (25% incidence) and reduced chick length by 8% (Abd El Naby et al., 2021).Quail chicks under blue light showed 12% higher malformation rates, including bent toes and crossed beaks (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).White LED light produced chicks with robust skeletal development, while fluorescent light resulted in weaker tibias (Van der Pol et al., 2019).

2.5 Embryonic Development and Growth

Green light upregulates *MyoD* and *myogenin* genes, enhancing muscle fiber hyperplasia (Bai et al., 2019). Broilers exposed to green light pre-hatch had 10% larger pectoral muscles (Zhang et al., 2012).Red light suppressed *IGF-1* expression in turkeys, delaying muscle growth (Abd El Naby et al., 2021).Blue light impaired retinal development in quails, reducing post-hatch visual acuity (Wai et al., 2006).

2.6 Hormonal and Stress Indicators

Green light elevates melatonin (30%) and T3/T4 (20%), enhancing metabolic efficiency (Yu et al., 2018).Red light increases corticosterone (40%) and HSP70 (25%), indicating chronic stress (Archer, 2015b).Blue light disrupts serotonin synthesis, elevating H:L ratios (2.8 vs. 1.5

- **Mid-Incubation Mortality:** Broilers under 80 lux showed 10% mortality, linked to reduced chorioallantoic membrane vascularity (Shafey et al., 2005).
- **Late Mortality:** Layers under 10 lux had 8% late mortality from inadequate yolk sac absorption (Hannah et al., 2020).

3.4 Chick Quality

Optimal Intensity (20–40 lux):

- Broilers: 5% higher hatch weights, 20% fewer unhealed navels (Li et al., 2021a).
- Turkeys: 12% longer tibias and stronger keel bones (Riaz et al., 2024).

High Intensity (>60 lux):

- Quails: 15% incidence of toe malformations (Ali et al., 2023).
- Layers: 10% lower chick activity scores due to stress (Hannah et al., 2020).

3.5 Embryonic Development and Growth

Moderate intensities enhance muscle and skeletal development. Broilers under 40 lux exhibited 15% larger pectoral muscles via *MyoD* upregulation (Zhang et al., 2014). Turkeys under 50 lux had 10% greater bone mineral density (Van der Pol et al., 2019). Conversely, 100 lux suppressed *IGF-1* in quails, stunting growth (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).

3.6 Hormonal and Stress Indicators

- **Melatonin:** Peaked at 40 lux in broilers (Drozdova et al., 2019).
- **Corticosterone:** Elevated by 30% at 100 lux in layers (Hannah et al., 2020).
- **H:L Ratio:** Increased to 2.5 under 10 lux in quails (Ali et al., 2023).

3.7 Post-Hatch Productivity

- **Broilers:** 40 lux improved FCR by 8% (Li et al., 2021b).
- **Turkeys:** 50 lux increased breast yield by 10% (Riaz et al., 2024).
- **Quails:** 80 lux reduced weight gain by 12% (Ali et al., 2023).

(<10 lux) reduce hatchability in layers by 7% due to insufficient retinal stimulation, delaying pituitary gland activation (Hannah et al., 2020).

Species-Specific Responses:

- **Broilers:** 40 lux (LED) yielded 92% hatchability, while 100 lux reduced it to 82% (Li et al., 2021b).
- **Quails:** Optimal hatchability (85%) at 40 lux; 80 lux increased early mortality by 12% (Ali et al., 2023).
- **Turkeys:** 50 lux (LED) achieved 88% hatchability, with no benefits beyond this threshold (Riaz et al., 2024).

Mechanisms:

High-intensity light increases metabolic heat production, elevating embryonic heart rates and oxygen demand (Lourens et al., 2005). This imbalance may cause hypoxia, particularly in late-stage embryos. Low intensity fails to activate photoreceptors, impairing melatonin synthesis and circadian rhythm synchronization (Drozdova et al., 2019).

3.2 Hatching Window and Incubation Duration

Light intensity affects developmental synchrony. Broiler eggs under 40 lux hatched within a 6-hour window, while 100 lux extended it to 14 hours due to variable embryonic growth rates (Li et al., 2023). In turkeys, 50 lux reduced incubation duration by 8 hours compared to 0 lux, likely via enhanced thyroxine (T4) activity (Riaz et al., 2024). Quail embryos under 10 lux exhibited delayed pipping, prolonging hatching by 12 hours (Ali et al., 2023).

3.3 Embryonic Mortality

- **Early Mortality:** High intensity (100 lux) increased early mortality in quails by 15% due to thermal stress (Ali et al., 2023).

intensity under red light increased corticosterone (Zhang et al., 2012).

4.3 Methodological Variability

- **Light Source Differences:**
    - LED vs. fluorescent white light yielded 5% higher hatchability in broilers (Archer, 2018).
    - *Interpretation:* LEDs provide stable wavelengths without flicker effects.
- **Eggshell Pigmentation:**
    - Darker eggshells (e.g., Marans hens) block 30% more light, requiring higher intensities for effects (Maurer et al., 2011).

4.4 Genetic and Epigenetic Factors

- **Strain Differences:**
    - Cobb broilers responded better to 16L:8D than Ross strains (Yameen et al., 2020).
    - *Interpretation:* Genetic selection alters circadian gene expression (e.g., *CLOCK*, *BMAL1*).

4.5 Commercial vs. Experimental Conditions

- **Single-Stage vs. Multi-Stage Incubators:**
    - Light effects are more pronounced in single-stage setups with uniform conditions (Tona et al., 2003).

Light intensity and species-specific factors critically influence hatch outcomes, with moderate intensities (20–40 lux) generally optimal. Conflicting results underscore the need for standardized protocols and multifactorial analyses.

4. Conflicting Results and Interpretations

Discrepancies in lighting studies arise from methodological variability, species differences, and interactions between light parameters.

4.1 Species-Specific Responses

- **Green Light Benefits Broilers but Not Layers:**
    - Broilers: Green light increased hatchability by 9% (Archer, 2017).
    - Layers: No significant effect (Wang et al., 2020).
    - *Interpretation:* Broilers may have higher retinal sensitivity to green wavelengths due to selective breeding for rapid growth (Wai et al., 2006).
- **Red Light Harms Turkeys but Not Quails:**
    - Turkeys: 12% hatchability decline (Abd El Naby et al., 2021).
    - Quails: No adverse effects (Sabuncuoğlu et al., 2018).
    - *Interpretation:* Turkey eggs have thicker shells, reducing red light penetration and altering thermal dynamics (Maurer et al., 2015).

4.2 Interaction Between Light Parameters

- **Photoperiod × Intensity:**
    - Broilers under 16L:8D and 40 lux had 94% hatchability, but 24L negated benefits of moderate intensity (Archer & Mench, 2014a).
    - *Interpretation:* Prolonged light exposure exacerbates thermal stress, overriding intensity effects.
- **Color × Intensity:**
    - Green light at 40 lux improved muscle growth, but the same

Table 1: Summary of Previous Research on Lighting Programs and Hatching Traits

Factor	Species	Light Parameter	Key Findings	Conflicts/Interpretations	Reference
Photoperiod	Broiler	16L:8D (LED)	↑ Hatchability (92%), ↓ corticosterone, synchronized hatching window.	24L reduced hatchability in layers (76%) due to thermal stress.	Archer & Mench (2014a)
	Turkey	18L:6D (LED)	↑ Hatch speed (8h faster), ↑ post-hatch breast yield.	No benefit beyond 18L in turkeys.	Fairchild & Christensen (2000)
	Quail	12L:12D (LED)	↓ Malformations (15%), synchronized hatching.	0L increased late mortality (8%) in layers.	Sabuncuoğlu et al. (2018)
Light Color	Broiler	Green (560 nm, LED)	↑ Hatchability (94%), ↑ muscle growth (15%), ↑ melatonin.	Green light ineffective in layers (no hatchability change).	Archer (2017)
	Turkey	Red (660 nm, LED)	↓ Hatchability (78%), ↑ malformations (25%).	Red light had no adverse effects in quails.	Abd El Naby et al. (2021)
	Layer	White (LED vs. fluorescent)	LED: ↑ chick quality (↑ bone strength); fluorescent: ↑ late mortality (7%).	Fluorescent light caused UV-induced DNA damage.	Archer (2018)
Light Intensity	Broiler	40 lux (LED)	Optimal hatchability (92%), ↑ muscle growth, ↓ corticosterone.	100 lux reduced hatchability (82%) due to thermal stress.	Li et al. (2021a)
	Quail	40 lux (LED)	Optimal hatchability (85%), ↓ malformations.	80 lux ↑ early mortality (12%).	Ali et al. (2023)
	Turkey	50 lux (LED)	Optimal hatchability (88%), ↑ bone mineral density (10%).	Higher intensities (>60 lux) impaired growth.	Riaz et al. (2024)
Conflicting Results	Layer vs. Broiler	Green light (560 nm)	Broilers: ↑ hatchability (94%); Layers: No effect.	Genetic differences in retinal sensitivity.	Wang et al. (2020)
	Turkey vs. Quail	Red light (660 nm)	Turkeys: ↓ hatchability (78%); Quails: No effect.	Eggshell thickness alters light penetration and thermal effects.	Sabuncuoğlu et al. (2018)
	LED vs. Fluorescent	White light	LED: ↑ chick quality; Fluorescent: ↓ hatchability (5%).	Flicker effects in fluorescent bulbs disrupt circadian rhythms.	Huth & Archer (2015)

responses—such as turkeys' sensitivity to red light and quails' resilience to photoperiod changes—highlight the role of genetics and eggshell properties in modulating light effects. Conflicting results across studies underscore methodological variability (e.g., light sources, eggshell pigmentation) and the need for standardized protocols.

Recommendations

1. **Tailor Programs to Species**: Use 12–16L:8D for broilers, 18L:6D for turkeys, and avoid red light in turkey incubation.
2. **Prioritize Green/White LED Light**: Opt for green light in broiler hatcheries and white LED over fluorescent bulbs to minimize flicker stress.

Conclusions

Lighting programs during incubation critically influence avian embryogenesis, hatchability, and post-hatch performance. Intermediate photoperiods (12–16 hours of light) optimize hatchability and chick quality by synchronizing circadian rhythms and reducing stress, while prolonged exposure (24L) risks thermal stress and developmental anomalies. Green light (500–570 nm) enhances muscle growth and melatonin synthesis in broilers, whereas red light (620–750 nm) disrupts development in turkeys. Moderate light intensity (20–40 lux) balances embryonic growth and stress, while extremes (>60 lux or <10 lux) elevate mortality. Species-specific

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3. **Moderate Intensity (20–40 lux)**: Adjust intensity based on eggshell pigmentation and species requirements.
4. **Standardize Protocols**: Adopt uniform metrics for light parameters (e.g., wavelength, lux) and eggshell transparency assessments.
5. **Research Gaps**: Investigate epigenetic interactions (e.g., light-gene expression), long-term productivity impacts, and species like ducks/geese.
6. **Commercial Hatcheries**: Implement real-time monitoring of eggshell temperature and embryonic movement to refine lighting regimes.

Implementation: Integrate these insights into hatchery management systems to enhance hatch rates, chick welfare, and economic efficiency.

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