

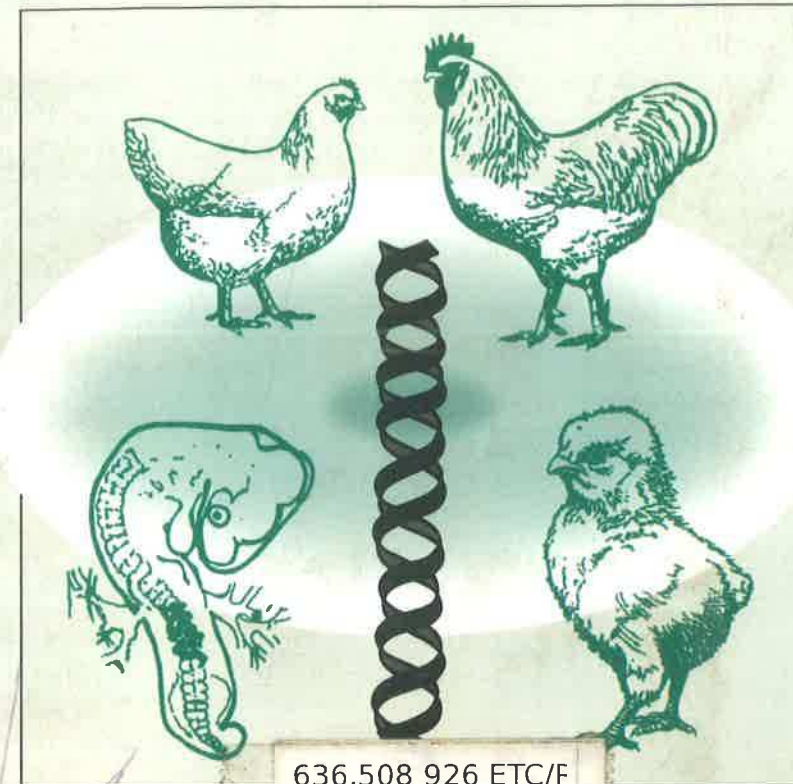
## REPRODUCTION IN POULTRY

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This book describes the biological basis of reproduction in poultry and places this information in the context of poultry production. The author has collated and integrated recent information from a variety of sources in order to highlight the principles of the reproductive biology of poultry. This is achieved through a well-illustrated and tabulated text which emphasizes integration rather than comprehensive literature citations. The book begins by considering the egg, proceeds to a brief description of embryonic and chick development as they relate to poultry production, and describes the physiological processes that lead to formation of the fertile egg. It concludes with a discussion of the relationship between measurements of reproductive success that are commonly used in the poultry industry and their ability to reflect the physiological processes that contribute to successful reproduction.

The book is aimed at advanced undergraduates or graduate students studying animal reproduction or agriculture, as well as scientists working in the poultry industry.

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... To Claudia, Danielle, Jacob and Peter  
whose lives have been touched by chickenology in many ways

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## Preface

During the past several years, I have had the opportunity to lecture on various aspects of reproduction in poultry to students in technical, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, short courses for service personnel in the poultry industry, and at a variety of scientific meetings. At the conclusion of the lectures, members of the audience have often requested a transcript of the text or asked for a reference volume that contains the ideas that were presented. Too often I have had to provide an inadequate set of notes or refer the audience to several sources of information upon which the presentation was based. This volume is an attempt to bring together a widely scattered assortment of facts and theories that have their origins in the poultry industry, faculties of agriculture and veterinary medicine, agricultural and veterinary research institutes, human medical research institutions, and various life science departments within faculties of science and related research institutes. Some of the information has been taken from texts and original articles published in the early part of this century, although the emphasis is placed on the integration of recent knowledge into the context of current poultry production systems. I hope that I have been able to provide an easy-to-read and broadly based view of reproduction in poultry that will be of use to students of poultry production, be they inexperienced undergraduates or seasoned veterans in the world of commercial poultry production.

The text is not an attempt to provide a comprehensive documentation of the myriad of reports that have contributed to our knowledge of the reproductive biology of poultry. Rather, I have tried to summarize current understanding of principles and to place these principles in the context of poultry production. Reproduction is a cyclic process and, therefore, the point at which the description begins is arbitrary. I have chosen to begin