



Pheasants fill Student Hearts

As Baby Chicks Ready to Pip ...

Initial Studies Cover Life Cycles, Data Marking

39 students, 36 eggs, 23 to 25 days, two teachers and one incubator.

Science teachers Mrs. Kamy Whatley and Mrs. Dayna Britten took the time to teach their students about life – real life. Specifically, they asked their 39 students to place their focus on 36 little eggs – baby pheasants.

“I hope that all the eggs will make it because all the little kids are excited,” Mrs. Whatley said.

All of the eggs resided in one incubator that was placed in Mrs.

Whatley’s science room.

“This is a fantastic experiment because students get to learn about real world data and collect data,” Mrs. Whatley said.

When it came to data, all high school agriculture students had to verify and revise temperature and humidity data that was recorded by fourth, fifth and sixth graders each day.

“I think it’s fun because we are learning about how they (the pheasants) develop,” fifth-grader Briana Ritter said.

The teamwork seemed to work. “For us (students in high school), this (the pheasant hatching) is a part of small animal management,” sophomore Chelsey Lamb said. “Plus, it’s just a fun project to get you out of the classroom.”

Many students have claimed an egg as their personal baby chick and have already come up with names for their personal pheasant.

“If it were a boy, I would name him Roscoe, and if it were a girl, I would name her Gemma,” Lamb said. “They

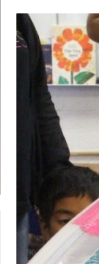
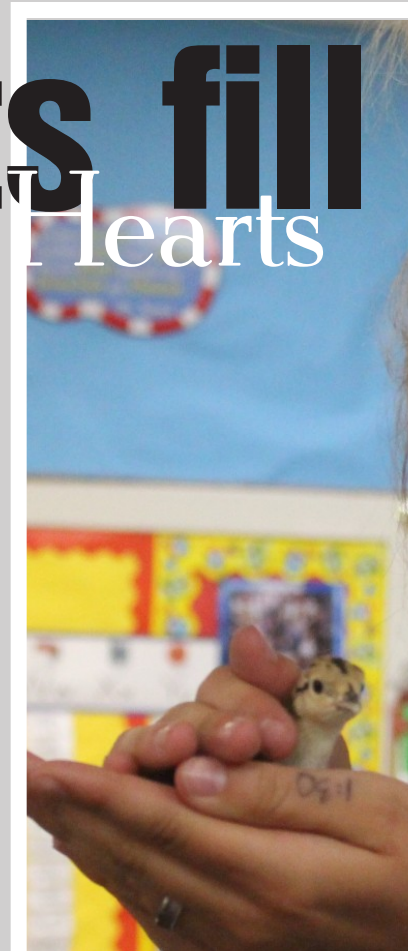
were the first names that popped into my head.”

The project started March 24, and since that date, students had learned that the eggs should hatch within 23 to 25 days from being laid. The pheasants should have “pipped,” or broken out, of their shell by April 15.

“It’s interesting learning about what is happening on the inside,” fifth-grader Kaylynn Bennett said.

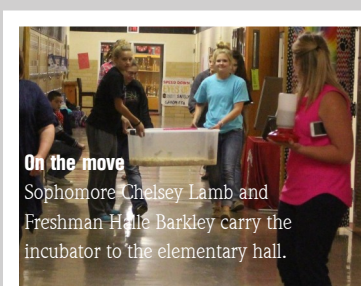
Editors’ Note: The GTTV team (Groom Tiger Times Vision broadcast group)

team had live stream that allowed students to check up on their eggs on a live private feed to the internet 24 hours a day, at least when the equipment worked. Keeping the iPad that did the videoing charged and from “going to sleep” did become a challenge. The team made the feed private so that even students who could not be shown on the internet would not be prohibited from going close to the incubator to check on their own egg.



Your read it first at GroomTigerTimes.com

The student news site, under the direction of editor Carson Ritter, received a distinguished merit rating and even a “Bronze Star” award from the UIL’s ILPC for running articles such as the one above as well as its companion follow-up piece that published later. The photo contained here shows sophomores Chelsey Lamb and Lauren Kuehler recording data from the incubator. The Small Animal Management class was in charge of the adjustments in the incubator.



On the move
Sophomore Chelsey Lamb and Freshman Halle Barkley carry the incubator to the elementary hall.



National Honor Society Inducts 3 Members,

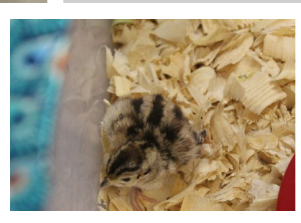
The Straight-A Line

The National Honor Society inducted three new students, bringing it’s membership to six. These students and officials were on hand for this year’s ceremony: Principal Stephen Vanderpool, Bradie Dodson, Cade Ruthardt, Nate Roskens, Leslie Germany, Caroline Britten, Carson Ritter, and sponsor Leslie Floyd.



The Feel of the Pheasant

One of the four pheasants that hatched this year rests with FFA member Halle Barkley, who helped with their care.



After 25 days waiting ... then hatching ... Young Wildlife helpers

Work on Relationships, Management Protocols

Pheasants hatched their way into Groom School, four of 36 - to be exact.

FFA members said the baby birds started developing their own personal relationships with students. Members of the small-animal management class took care of the pheasants. Care offered included providing a coop, feeding them and providing clean

water, as needed.

According to teacher Mrs. Kamy Whatley, the pheasants came out of the incubator in early April.

On Thursday, April 21, the high school class took the pheasants to the elementary.

"I can understand all animals," first-grader Blake Ritter said. "I am the animal whisperer."

Ritter and his other classmates were allowed to pet the pheasants, ask questions and observe the pheasants' habits. The eggs sat in the incubator for 25 days.

"(My favorite thing about the pheasants) is they are cute because they are small," Bella Fields said. "They are also cute because they are

soft."

The pheasants were on their way to being full-grown adult birds. While the pheasant population was decreasing slowly, they were not part of the endangered species list.

Once the pheasants became too large for their 66-quart, snap-on clear box, which was about the size of a regular

garage-storage container, the small-animal management students built a coop for the birds to live in until the young pheasants could become full-grown.

The pheasants provided students of all ages an opportunity to experience wildlife right in the midst of school.

-William Kelly



'I want to see ...'

Elementary students crowd the incubator when it arrives in their classrooms, hoping to see a pheasant.



Encourages Ongoing, Academic Excellence

Officers



NHS Officers Officiate Order

Officers ready themselves to lead the ceremony. Senior Bradie Dodson served as secretary/treasurer. Cade Ruthardt held the office of vice president, and Nate Roskens handled the responsibilities of president for this year.

New Inductees



Junior Members Join ...

Students must earn a minimum course average of 90 percent to be nominated for membership in NHS. Leslie Germany, Caroline Britten and Carson Ritter claimed their spots during this year's April 18 meeting held in the high school library.