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Faculty of Veterinary Science
Poultry Reference Centre

VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR BROILERS

In view of the recently confirmed outbreaks of Newcastle disease on the Highveld, it has become necessary to review our recommendations for vaccination, with special reference to Newcastle disease.

We have to emphasize the fact that no one programme is suitable for every situation. An effective vaccination programme depends on the type of operation, maternal antibody levels of day old chicks, disease challenge on the farm, age at slaughter, level of hygiene on the farm and many other factors. It is best to consult a poultry specialist to advice a programme based on your specific circumstances. Effectiveness of vaccination programmes should be monitored by serological or challenge studies.

The programme below must serve as a guideline only.

BASIC BROILER VACCINATION PROGRAMME		
AGE	**DISEASE**	**ROUTE**
Day old	Infectious Bronchitis Newcastle Disease (Avinew/Vitapest)	Eyedrop or course spray (Usually done at hatchery)
Day 14	Infectious Bursal Disease (Gumboro)	Drinking water
Day 16 - 18	Newcastle Disease (Avinew)	Drinking Water
Day 18	Infectious Bursal Disease	Drinking water
Day 28	Newcastle Disease (Lasota type) (Only if birds kept longer than 42 days)	Fine spray (Atomist or other)

BROILER VACCINATION PROGRAMME (WHERE THERE IS A HIGH RISK OF NEWCASTLE CHALLENGE)		
AGE	**DISEASE**	**ROUTE**
Day old	Infectious Bronchitis Newcastle Disease (Avinew or VH)	Eye-drop or coarse spray (Usually done at hatchery)
Day 14	Infectious Bursal Disease	Drinking water
Day 14-16	Newcastle Disease (Cloned La Sota)	Fine Spray (Atomist or other)
Day 18	Infectious Bursal Disease	Drinking water
Day 25	Newcastle Disease (La Sota type) (Only or if birds kept longer than 42 days)	Fine spray (Atomist or other)

Fine spray application of La Sota type vaccines may cause vaccine reactions in some flocks. A slight “snick” among the birds is normal 3 to 4 days after spray vaccination. This should be monitored and birds treated with an antibiotic through the drinking water if symptoms become more severe or there is an increase in mortality.