



DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Infectious diseases are the greatest risk to a poultry operation and attempts must be made to control and prevent them. In most instances, the cost of treating clinical outbreaks of disease is enormous. Sub-clinical, mild or chronic disease also leads to losses due to poor performance of the affected flocks.

General hints on the control and prevention of disease have been discussed under Hygiene and Sanitation in another leaflet. To detect disease in their early stages, it is important for the flock attendants to be aware of the daily status of the birds. They should judge this by the behaviour of the birds, droppings, feed intake, mortality rates, etc. Any signs of ill health should be reported immediately to a veterinarian who can make the correct diagnosis and prescribe the appropriate treatment. Since most poultry diseases have very similar manifestations diagnosis by the farmers is strongly discouraged.

A vaccination program to meet both area and individual farm needs is essential for flock health management. Vaccination programs need to be reviewed periodically and any changes approved by an experienced veterinarian. It is important to follow the manufacturer's directions on storage and administration of vaccines. Generally vaccines must be stored between 2 degrees C and 8 degrees C, and they should NOT be exposed to direct sunlight. (Do not store in the freezer part of the fridge)

When vaccinating through the drinking water, the water supply system should be completely free of chlorine, medication and/or other chemical agents for 48 hours prior to and for 24 hours after the vaccination. The vaccine should be mixed with water, which the birds will consume within 2 hours of being mixed. To ensure this the flock should be thirsted for 1 hour before being provided with the vaccination water. (Take note of the environmental temperatures).

Vaccinations should be done during the cooler part of the day, either early morning or late evening. Before vaccination always ensure that there are sufficient doses to cover the flock and that the birds are healthy. Also ensure that the vaccines have not expired.

It is also important to purchase your chicks from a hatchery where the vaccination history of the parents is available, as this determines the level of protection the chicks have acquired from their parents and the vaccination program to follow. For example, due to



the high maternal antibodies in the chicks obtained from Hybrid it is important that the first Gumboro vaccination is not done before 10 days of age as the maternal antibodies would neutralize the vaccine, leaving the chicks unprotected. Such hatcheries would also ensure that the appropriate day-old vaccinations are done effectively.

It is also important that vaccines are purchased from reputable vaccine manufacturers or their appointed outlets (pharmacies, agrovet shop, etc). Such outlets are capable of ensuring that the vaccine cold chain is maintained and normally offer professional advice on various aspects of vaccinations.

BELOW IS THE SUGGESTED VACCINATION GUIDE FOR BROILERS FROM HYBRID

AGE	VACCINATION	METHOD
DAY 10	GUMBORO	DRINKING WATER
DAY 14	NCD	DRINKING WATER
DAY 18	GUMBORO	DRINKING WATER
DAY 21	NCD	DRINKING WATER

BELOW IS THE SUGGESTED VACCINATION GUIDE FOR LAYERS FROM HYBRID

AGE	VACCINATION	METHOD
DAY 10	GUMBORO	DRINKING WATER
DAY 14	NCD/IBH20	DRINKING WATER
DAY 18	GUMBORO	DRINKING WATER
DAY 28	NCD LASOTA	DRINKING WATER
WEEK 8	COYZA OIL/IB+NCD/FOWL POX	SUBCUTANEOUS/INTRA MUSCLUAR
WEEK 14	IB+NCD/CORYZA	SUBCUTANEOUS/INTRA MUSCLUAR

After every vaccination administer vitamins for a day or two to reduce stress