

Vaccination Programs  
for  
Replacement and Fryer Chickens

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The type of vaccine to use and method of application will vary in different sections of the country and according to local circumstances. The following recommendations have generally met the requirements of Washington poultrymen. Since vaccination is a stress, the chickens must be in good health to avoid complications and allow effective immunization.

Newcastle Disease

Vaccine to Use: B-1 strain. This strain of Newcastle disease vaccine will give moderate protection and does not spread the disease from vaccinated to susceptible birds. For these reasons all chickens must receive their share of the vaccine if they are to be protected.

Replacement Chickens

1st vaccination -  $3\frac{1}{2}$  weeks of age by the eyedrop or drinking water method.

2nd vaccination - 18 weeks of age by the eyedrop, drinking water, dust spray, or liquid spray methods.

Additional vaccinations - If desired, booster vaccinations may be given at 4-month intervals by the drinking water method following the second vaccination. Hens force-molted for second-year egg production or hens kept longer than the first laying year should be revaccinated during the molting periods.

If Newcastle disease should occur on the farm or near the farm, baby chicks should be given an additional vaccination by the eyedrop method at time of delivery or at 3 days of age by the drinking water method.

Fryer Chickens

Many growers believe the low incidence of Newcastle disease does not warrant routine vaccination. Other growers, particularly those who have had considerable losses in the past from the disease, consider routine vaccination an insurance against such losses.

Routine vaccination - Once by the drinking water method at 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  weeks of age.

Additional vaccinations - When the disease is on the farm or nearby, vaccinate by the eyedrop method at the time of delivery or at 3 days of age by the drinking water method, then give a second vaccination at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  weeks of age by the drinking water method.

### Infectious Bronchitis

Vaccine to Use:

For Replacement Chickens - Use a vaccine made from the Massachusetts type virus.

For Fryer Chickens - Use a vaccine made from the Connecticut type virus.

#### Replacement Chickens

Vaccinate once between 8 and 12 weeks of age by the drinking water method. (Some poultrymen use the Connecticut strain virus vaccine at 10 to 14 days of age, followed by the Massachusetts strain virus vaccine at 8 to 12 weeks of age.)

#### Fryer Chickens

Infectious bronchitis is frequently associated with severe complicated respiratory infection, with high mortality, in fryer birds from the 4th or 5th week. On farms experiencing this difficulty, one of the following vaccination schedules is advised: (1) Vaccinate at 4 and 18 days, or (2) Vaccinate once at 10 to 14 days of age, using the Connecticut type virus vaccine by the drinking water method.

### Fowl Pox

Vaccine to Use: Use a mild strain of pox vaccine like that having the trade name "Pipovax." Do not use the regular "hot" type vaccine.

#### Replacement Chickens

Vaccinate between 6 weeks of age and 3 weeks before start of egg production.

#### Fryer Chickens

Vaccination not necessary.

### Infectious Laryngotracheitis

Vaccination is recommended only in special cases upon the advice of a poultry pathologist.

### Coccidiosis

At the present stage of development there are reasonable arguments both for and against the use of coccidiosis vaccines.

Replacement Chickens

Before using a coccidiosis vaccine, poultrymen should consult with their poultry health advisor, as satisfactory results will depend on the coccidiostat used in the feed and conditions on the farm.

Fryer Chickens

Control of coccidiosis for Washington fryers would appear more feasible by using a coccidiostat in the feed.

Epidemic Tremors (Avian Encephalomyelitis)

It is only in breeding flocks that vaccination for this disease would be used, and then only under certain circumstances.

Fowl Cholera, Infectious Coryza, Erysipelas, and Other Bacterial Diseases

The products used for bacterial diseases are known as bacterins and are made from killed organisms that cause the specific disease. Bacterins should be used only upon the recommendation of your poultry pathologist.