



International Alliance for
Biological Standardization

IABS Meeting on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza

Vaccination Strategies to prevent and control HPAI: Removing unnecessary barriers for usage



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Vaccine Usage to Control High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza and Barriers to More Effective Usage: Setting the Scene

Since October 2020, H5Nx 2.3.4.4b lineage of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) virus has spread across Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia causing infections in wild aquatic birds and outbreaks in poultry. In the fall 2021, the virus spread into North America. Europe and North America has met this challenge with stamping-out programs to eradicate the virus from poultry production systems. However, the virus is present in large numbers of migratory and resident aquatic birds with recurring exposure to domestic poultry populations resulting in outbreaks. When potent vaccines are available and properly applied, vaccination can be a crucial tool for prevention and control, but its use is prohibited or severely restricted in many countries worldwide. Wider use of avian influenza vaccination would increase resistance to HPAI infection of poultry, decrease HPAI spread, increase sustainable poultry production, improve animal welfare, reduce economic damage, reduce human infections, and contribute to consumers and animal welfare acceptance of control programs. Various barriers to greater use of vaccine exist and scientific solutions will be proposed to mitigate the barriers including improved vaccines and vaccination programs, design, and implementation of appropriate surveillance programs, communicating the strengths of vaccination and providing scientific information to address incorrect information on vaccine use.

