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### **Vaccinating the Pullet Flock**

Cooperative Extension, South Dakota State University

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# Vaccinating the pullet flock

## Vaccinating pullets

A well-planned vaccination program is a must if you depend on your poultry flock for a major part of your income.

A good vaccination program can give a flock protection from many of the common diseases. You will first need to decide which diseases are common in your area and a threat to your flock. When this is established you can go ahead with a plan for protecting your birds.

Vaccination is relatively cheap compared to the mortality and morbidity that occurs in a disease riddled flock. When making the decision to vaccinate or not to vaccinate, it is safest with some diseases to go ahead and vaccinate when the disease becomes common in your area.

The recommendations in the table are endorsed by the South Dakota State College Veterinary and Poultry Departments, the Cooperative Extension Service, and the South Dakota Poultry Improvement Association. The vaccination age schedule is the same if you vaccinate for one or all of the diseases.

Recommendations for Vaccinating the Laying Flock

Dates to vaccinate*	Disease	Age in weeks	Remarks
	Newcastle and Infectious Bronchitis	3 to 4	A combination vaccine can be used
	Laryngotracheitis	12	Use vaccination if the disease is common in your area
	Fowl Pox	14	Wing web method. With Fowl Pox vaccine†
	Newcastle and Infectious Bronchitis	16	Booster vaccine

\*The dates to vaccinate your flocks should be figured and placed in the space provided.

†Use pigeon pox vaccine (follicle method) if birds are in production.

**Remember**—vaccination cannot substitute for sound management. Vaccinations do not prevent outbreaks of diseases such as chronic respiratory disease (CRD), etc.

One risk of vaccinating for Infectious Bronchitis is that a strong reaction can result in some of the same effects as an outbreak of the disease.

There is also danger of spreading diseases from vaccinated pullets to hens that are not immune on the same farm. This is a calculated risk when a flock-owner wants to start a vaccination program. The risk

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is greatest when the birds are in the reaction stage following vaccination.

However, these precautions will help stop the spread to the old hen flock:

1. The two flocks should be in separate houses, 300 feet or more apart.
2. Different people should care for the two houses during the period of reaction from the vaccination so there is no tracking from one house to the other.
3. Cats and dogs should be confined to one or the other house or kept out of both units.
4. Because there is some danger of carrier birds transmitting the disease after the vaccination reaction period, keep the flocks separate and track as little as possible from one unit to the other until the old birds go to market.

When live virus vaccines are used in South Dakota, the party furnishing the vaccine should obtain a permit from the State Livestock Sanitary Board, State Office Building, Pierre, South Dakota.



When vaccinating for pox via the wing web method, one man holds the bird in position while the other punctures the wing web with a vaccination needle that has been dipped in pox vaccine. The chicken then develops pox in the vaccinated area and becomes immune to the disease.