



CAGE-FREE SYSTEM

COCCIDIOSIS VACCINATION

FIVE KEY POINTS FOR EFFECTIVE POST-VACCINATION MANAGEMENT

Why it matters

- ⚠️ Cage-free systems increase **contact with faeces**
- 🔄 Enables ***Eimeria* recycling**
- 📈 Higher coccidiosis pressure
- ✅ Vaccination reduces **clinical signs & gut damage**

Vaccination basics

- ✓ Only **live (attenuated) vaccines** available
 - 🔄 sporulated *Eimeria* oocysts
- ♻️ Immunity develops through **natural recycling**
- 🛡️ Full protection requires **2-3 cycles**
 - 📅 3-6 weeks

Preferred administration

- 🥚 **Hatchery application**
 - Uniform vaccine distribution
 - Early exposure
 - Stimulates preening
 - Minimal handling

5 KEY POST-VACCINATION MANAGEMENT POINTS

1 ENSURE EARLY VACCINE ACTIVATION

- ✓ **Crop filling** confirms feed intake
- ✓ Oocysts must be **"cracked" in the gizzard**
- ✓ Delayed cracking → delayed immunity
- ✓ First shedding:
 - 🕒 *E. acervulina*: ~4 days
 - 🕒 *E. necatrix*: up to 7 days

2 USE CHICK PAPER CORRECTLY

- ✓ Essential for **faeces contact**
- ✓ Sturdy, hydrophobic material
- ✓ **60-80% floor coverage** at placement
- ✓ Keep faeces **moist**
- ✓ Move paper with chicks
- ✓ **≥40% coverage**
- ⚠️ Do not remove before **28 days**

3 SUPPORT SPORULATION

- ✓ Oocysts need:
 - 🌡️ **Temperature**
 - 💧 **Humidity**
 - 🌬️ **Oxygen**
- ✓ Optimal conditions:
 - 📄 Paper: **24-28 °C**
 - 📄 Paper humidity: **30-40%**
 - 🌫️ Air humidity: **60-65%**
- ✓ Fresh faeces = effective sporulation

4 STIMULATE RE-UPTAKE

- ✓ Feed on chick paper (first **10-12 days**)
- ✓ Increase light intensity
- ✓ Higher stocking density (days 1-14): **30-60 birds/m²**
- ✓ Always move chick paper accordingly

5 PROTECT GUT HEALTH

- ✓ Vaccine replicates in **intestinal cells**
- ✓ Avoid stressors:
 - 🦠 Diseases, mycotoxins
 - 🌡️ Heat or cold stress
 - 🗑️ Poor hygiene & feed quality
- ✓ Avoid interference:
 - 💊 Certain antibiotics
 - 🚫 Anticoccidials
 - 💧 Some water disinfectants

Key takeaway

- ✓ Vaccination success depends on **post-vaccination management**
- ✓ Support oocyst recycling, chick behaviour and gut health
- ✓ Build **strong, long-lasting immunity** in cage-free systems



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