MINISTÈRE
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General Directorate for Food

OFFICIAL VACCINATION PLAN
HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)
FACT SHEET 1 – THE GROUNDS FOR VACCINATION

Clade H5N1 2.3.4.4b Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus has spread around the globe, leading to an epizootic of unprecedented proportions and creating a constant threat not only for wild birds and farmed poultry but also for mammals, including human beings.

The impact of HPAI on the poultry industry is massive, threatening food security and causing major financial and commercial losses, as well as psychological distress among farmers.

There have been successive episodes of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on an unprecedented scale in Europe and around the world with major societal and economic consequences. The scale of those crises requires that the prevention and control strategies already in force should be backed by poultry vaccination. Vaccination is an additional tool for prevention to manage future crises due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

RESOLUTION No. 28 OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

In a resolution adopted on 25 May 2023 by the 90th general session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), delegates acknowledged that the current control strategy based on conventional measures such as biosecurity, mass culling and movement restrictions no longer effectively limits the risk of spread of the virus.

WOAH delegates called for the identification of innovative solutions to control HPAI, with vaccination foremost among them.

Vaccination has therefore been recognised by WOAH as an additional tool for controlling the disease, one that must be founded on strict surveillance to demonstrate the absence of circulation of the virus. Recourse to vaccination should not lead to negative consequences for international trade insofar as member countries follow WOAH standards.

EU COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

On 24 May 2022, the Council of the European Union approved conclusions on a strategic approach to the development of vaccination as an additional tool for the prevention and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

THE SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS OF THE FRENCH STRATEGY

ANSES, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, was asked to evaluate several scenarios from the epidemiological standpoint in order to define a strategy for the vaccination of poultry against HPAI. ANSES published its opinion at the end of March 2023 (consultation no. 2022-SA-0165).

This opinion provides a framework for consideration of the implementation of a vaccination campaign, setting out a priority ranking for target populations and geographical areas of application. These scientific factors were then considered alongside the technical, economic and husbandry aspects to arrive at a possible vaccination strategy for preventive purposes, the goal being to prevent the epizootic flaring up once again, while at the same time maintaining control over the impacts on exports, the operational feasibility of the vaccination campaign and the cost.

For more information:

- **WOAH Resolution no. 28: – Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza**
  https://www.woah.org/fr/document/projet-de-resolution-n-28-defis-strategiques-afferents-au-controle-mondial-de-linfluenza-aviaire-de-haute-pathogenicite-2/
- **The EU Council conclusions:**
  https://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2022/05/24/council-approves-conclusions-on-a-strategic-approach-for-the-development-of-vaccination-as-a-complementary-tool-for-the-prevention-and-control-of-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai/
- **The ANSES Opinion on the development of a national vaccination strategy for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in galliform species**:
  https://www.anses.fr/fr/system/files/SABA2022SA0165.pdf