

A comparison of Newcastle disease vaccines available in Malawi¹

There are a range of vaccines available in Malawi to combat Newcastle disease (ND) in poultry. Some are well suited for use in a commercial environment; others for use as a first vaccine; others for use in free-range village poultry. The table below gives a brief summary of some of the more important features of the live vaccines currently available. It will help you decide which particular Newcastle disease vaccine is best suited for your purposes.

With all vaccines, indeed all veterinary medicines, read the label carefully and in particular check the expiry date and storage conditions.

Further information is available from the Rural Poultry Centre in Malawi at any of the contact points shown above.

Vaccine strain ²	Administration ³	Immuno-genicity ⁴	Vaccinal reaction ⁵	Thermo-stability	Cost ⁶
Hitchner (or "B1")	Water/spray (occasionally nasal/eye drop)	++++	Low	Medium	Low
F strain	Water (occasionally nasal/eye drop)	++++	Low	Medium	Low
La Sota	Water/spray	+++++	Moderate ⁷	Medium ⁸	Low
I-2	Eye drop	+++++	Very low	Good ⁹	Medium

References:

Anon. "Newcastle disease vaccines: an overview". <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/ac802e/ac802e04.htm> (Accessed 7 March 2018)

Bell, JG. 2000. "A comparison of the different vaccines available for the control of Newcastle disease in village chickens". <http://aciar.gov.au/files/node/2131/pr103chapter14.pdf> (Accessed 7 March 2018)

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- 2 Not to be confused with trade names. One strain might be available under a number of different trade names all of which are essentially the same.
- 3 Always carefully read the directions on the label. Some formulations of the same strain are suitable for certain routes of administration and not for other routes.
- 4 This is a measure of the 'strength' of the vaccine in protecting chickens from ND.
- 5 This is a measure of the 'safety' of the vaccine in not harming chickens.
- 6 Indicative cost per bird vaccinated, assuming optimal use of a full vial of vaccine. In practice, all these vaccines are extremely cheap considering their potential to prevent significant losses.
- 7 La Sota should not be used for initial ND vaccination, especially in baby chicks. It can harm or kill vulnerable chickens. Many people do not know this.
- 8 Some La Sota vaccine coming from India is claimed to be thermo-tolerant but we have found no evidence in support of the claim.
- 9 I-2 is well suited for use in village poultry. Other ND vaccines work well in commercial settings but their effectiveness under practical village conditions has been disappointing.