



Amlan International

Ayurved

Biomin

CID Lines

Hubbard

Invesa

LUBING

Meriden Animal Health

XVET

Ziggity

ISA • Innovad  
Intracare • Rotem  
Fieravicola • Weltech  
Novation • Nuscience

## Intervention strategies

No commercial vaccine is available and so other intervention strategies have to be considered for controlling and/or preventing avian leukosis.

## Eradication

The effective eradication of avian leukosis virus from primary breeding stocks is one of the best ways for controlling avian leukosis in chickens. These companies have done a lot of very successful work in this context.

Basically an eradication programme must stop the vertical transmission of avian leukosis virus. Breeder hens that test positive are removed and eggs from the remainder are hatched, reared and maintained in isolation, preferably in small groups. Up to four generations of testing are needed to confirm freedom.

Application of eradication programs to commercial flocks needs an understanding of the relationship between avian leukosis virus infections in eggs, embryos, hens and chicks. Hens with a low probability of producing infected embryos are hens that are negative for virus on cloacal swabbing or hens that lay eggs whose albumen is free of virus.

Eradication then involves selecting fertile eggs from negative hens, hatching the chicks off in small groups on wire floors and without vent sexing or multiple vaccinations with the same needle to avoid viral spread. Then chicks are tested and any found to be positive for avian leukosis are removed along with their contacts. The avian leukosis free groups are then reared in isolation.

## Genetic resistance

Genetic resistance varies greatly among different chicken commercial lines. In some lines high levels of resistance genes are found naturally, whereas in others their frequency can be increased by selection.