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Challenges and Control of Newcastle Disease Viruses

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

According to the OIE report on March 2021, Newcastle disease (ND) resists all efforts for full control in most geographic areas, with very few exceptions. The control of ND, as it is suggested or performed today, is obviously not reaching the final goal, which is enabling an inexpensive and affordable approach to a specific resistance to ND. Among measures directed to the control of ND, specific vaccination is the only one that offers possibilities of improvements. The model we propose is acceptable for most less-developed parts of the world, and should be done in a stepwise approach. Small hatcheries should deliver newly hatched birds which are already protected against ND. For long-lasting immunity against ND, we suggest the use of live mild strains of NDV, such as heat-resistant Ulster 2C, Queensland V4, or the recently introduced Croatian strain of NDV ZG1999HDS. This strain compared to other NDV vaccines gives much longer immunity to newly hatched chickens regardless of the level of maternal antibodies, lasting up to two months.

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