Drinking Water

Eimeriavax Coccidiosis vaccines

Recommendation for vaccine preparation when
administration via drinking water is applied in the poultry house

This instruction is a guideline to prepare the vaccine solution when gravity poultry drinkers or bell drinkers are being used.

Step 1: Calculation of the volumes needed for vaccination

Dose rate for drinking water is as follows: **per 1000 doses, 5 litres of water** should be used. Use clean drinking water at room temperature to prepare the vaccine.

Number of birds to vaccinate	Vaccine*	Total volume for vaccination
5,000 birds	5,000 doses	**25 litres**
10,000 birds	10,000 doses	**50 litres**
20,000 birds	20,000 doses	**100 litres**
30,000 birds	30,000 doses	**150 litres**
40,000 birds	40,000 doses	**200 litres**

*vaccine is available in 30ml vials containing 1000 or 5000 doses.

Step 2: Preparation of the vaccine solution

- Shake the vaccine vial thoroughly to re-suspend the oocysts
- Open the vial and pour the entire contents into clean drinking water
- Rinse the vaccine vial at least 2-3 times with water to ensure all oocysts have been removed from the vial

Step 3: Administration of the vaccine solution

Provide an adequate number (1/100-150 chickens) of drinkers or drinking space and place them evenly in the area where chicks are housed. Use clean drinkers to which the animals are used to. In case of bell drinkers, disconnect them from the waterline so that they can be filled manually.
Withhold the water for 2-4 hours before vaccination to make sure that birds are thirsty and will take up the vaccine as quick as possible. Pour the prepared vaccine solution in the drinkers.
Ensure that there is at least 500ml of vaccine suspension per 100 chickens in the drinkers.

Application recommendation

Key points for a successful coccidiosis vaccination

The vaccine contains **live coccidian oocysts** and is dependent upon replication of the vaccinal lines within the chickens for building up of immunity.

To reduce the chance of coccidial challenge before the onset of immunity, litter should be removed and chicken housing should be **thoroughly cleaned** between rearing cycles. Make sure all rests of feed were removed from the previous cycle and that the feed lines were cleaned with a non-medicated feed if necessary. All drinker and drinker lines should be cleaned properly to avoid persistence from rest medication in the drinking water.

Recycling of oocysts is necessary for the development of immunity and for continued protection. Contact between the excreted vaccine and the birds after vaccination is guaranteed when birds are floor reared and housed at normal commercial density (the higher the density, the higher the possibility for recycling). In case of rearing on slatted floors care should be taken that recycling is guaranteed for minimum 3 weeks after vaccine application.

To guarantee an **optimal sporulation** of the excreted vaccine a minimum relative humidity of 60% in the poultry house, a dry matter content in the litter of maximum 80% and a litter temperature of minimum 25°C is advisable.

Do **not use products** with **anti-coccidial activity** at any time following vaccination since they will affect the live vaccine and will adversely affect the development of immunity.

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