

Methods for the Control of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H9N2) in Korea

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The first outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) occurred in breeder farm located at central part of Korea in March 1996 and the virus isolated during the outbreak was identified as a H9N2 subtype of avian influenza (AI) virus (3). Since then, numerous AI outbreaks occurred in the domestic layer farms at the national level causing huge economic losses in the poultry industry. Therefore, the Korean government decided to use inactivated vaccine for the control of LPAI (H9N2) with monitoring method of field infection such as placement of sentinel birds in the farms vaccinated. Even though this strategy has several advantages such as decreasing clinical signs, mortality, viral shedding and transmission, inactivated vaccine was not able to prevent the viral replication in vaccinated birds resulting increments of opportunities of viral mutation and endemic (2). Therefore, vaccination strategy must coupled with other control methods such as biosecurity, quarantine, depopulation and surveillance (1). In addition, the techniques distinguishing between infected birds and vaccinated birds are needed to succeed these control methods. Another option is the medication of anti-influenza drugs that are not recommended for treatment or prevent of food-producing animals at present. However, there have been several studies for peptides from lactic acid bacteria separated from the metabolic products of bacterial cultures against virus infection. Serkedjieve *et al* (2000) described *L.delbrueckii* subsp. *bulgaricus* with activity against the avian influenza virus (H7N7). The control methods for LPAI currently used in Korea will be discussed in the meeting.

References

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