

Policy paper

VACCINE AND/OR DIAGNOSTIC BANKS FOR
MAJOR ANIMAL DISEASES:
STRATEGIC PLANNING OPTIONS FOR
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS OR MAJOR CRISES

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/docs/7070-vaccine-bank-policy-paper_en.pdf

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The European Commission launched an external evaluation to review its animal health policy in 2005.

Based on the results of this evaluation, strategic aims and objectives for animal health were set out in the Commission Communication on the new EU Animal Health Strategy where

‘Prevention is better than cure’.

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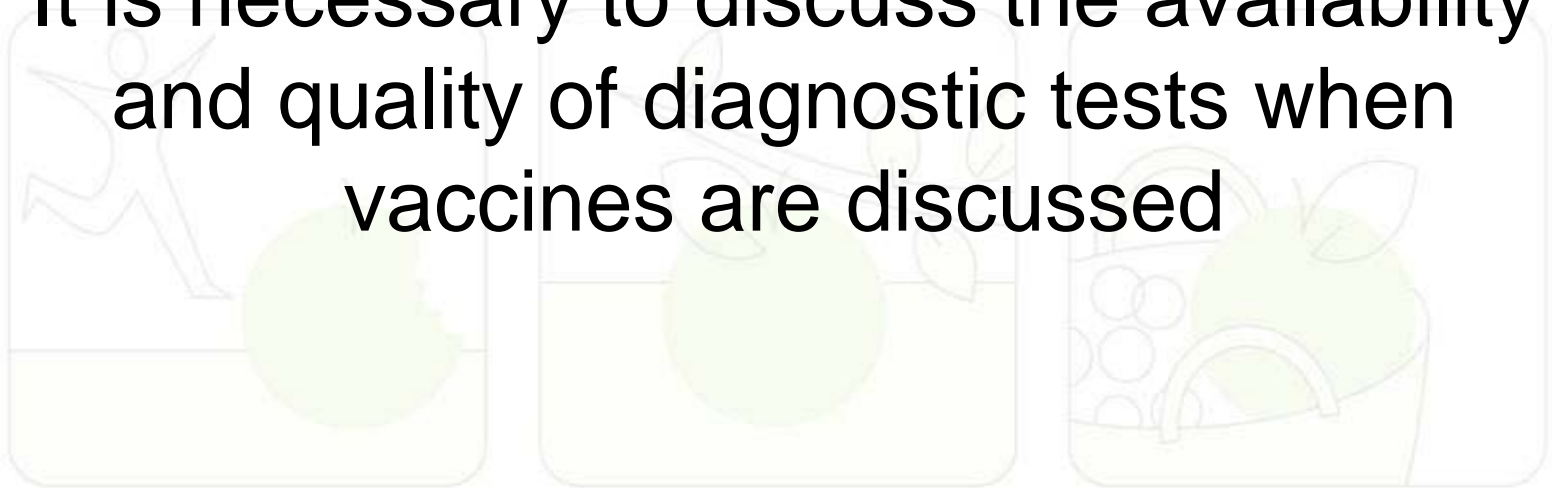
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It is widely agreed that in many cases,
the best means of combating animal
diseases once they occur is in accordance
with the principle that

**‘vaccination is better than unnecessary
culling’**

Emergency vaccination has to be seen in a new light, directly linked to the **availability of effective diagnostic tools** substantiating that vaccinated animals or the meat and meat products obtained from vaccinated animals are free from pathogens and can be traded safely.

It is necessary to discuss the availability
and quality of diagnostic tests when
vaccines are discussed



Scope of policy paper

- Identification of the infectious diseases for which vaccine or antigen banks should be available;
- Conditions under which vaccination against certain infectious diseases is recommended;
- Recommendations for vaccination strategies under emergency situations;
- The use of vaccines as part of DIVA-strategies;
- Estimates of size and costs of envisaged vaccine stocks;
- **Identifying the need for diagnostic banks (e.g. for particular ELISA or PCR tests);**
- Recommendations for improving EU legislation on use of vaccines in emergency or endemic situations.

Infectious diseases for which vaccine and diagnostic banks should be available

1. Disease qualifying for vaccine and diagnostic bank
2. Disease qualifying only for a diagnostic bank
3. Potential candidates for a vaccine bank
4. Diseases not qualifying for a vaccine bank

Council Directive 82/894/EEC on the notification of animal diseases in the Community: 22 infectious diseases are listed, all of which are considered to have a major impact on animal health but also on trade or human health (zoonotic character).

Overview of proposals for vaccine and diagnostic banks

DISEASE	Vaccine Bank		Diagnostic Bank	
	Type	Size	Type	Size
FMD	Selection of vaccine strains based on up-to-date risk assessments	2.5 – 5 mil doses per strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Serological tests kits •Lateral flow devises •Portable PCR systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •for 2.5 mil animals •500 •5
AI	H5 and H7 strains (selection of vaccine strains based on recommendation of OIE/FAO Network of AI)	7 – 8 mil doses per strain	Not needed	
CSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Live attenuated vaccine •E2 subunit vaccine 	2 mil doses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Not needed •E^{rns} ELISA 	•for 50.000 animals
AHS	Against serotypes 2, 4 and 9	150.000 doses per serotype	Not needed	
BT	Vaccine seed-stocks for the BTV serotypes not currently present in the EU.	5 mil doses of final vaccine per serotype	Not needed	
ASF	No vaccine available		Antibody ELISA	for 100.000 animals



Vaccination is a fundamental tool in a strategy to control and eradicate major emerging diseases.

Emergency vaccination has to be considered as one tool in a whole range of measures as a part of a complex strategy

Emergency vaccination for most of the relevant infectious diseases should in general be seen in a new light, directly linked to the availability of effective diagnostic tools substantiating that vaccinated animals, or meat and other products obtained from vaccinated animals, are free from pathogens and can be traded safely.

Emergency vaccination has to be understood as *vaccinate-to-live*, meaning that vaccinated animals are kept to the end of a normal production cycle, and that their meat and other products can be marketed.



Diagnostic banks for particular infectious diseases are necessary to supplement vaccine banks to enable a holistic strategy of disease control and eradication.

Vaccine and diagnostic banks must be part of a strategic plan prepared during 'peace time' ready for an emergency.

The issue of vaccine and diagnostic banks can only be treated in the context of a control and eradication strategy specific to each major animal disease (e.g. FMD, CSF, AI) and various outbreak scenarios.

For most of the relevant infectious diseases, existing legislation regarding emerging vaccination should be amended in such a way that vaccination becomes a realistic option in the event of a crisis.



Trade issues regarding vaccinated animals should be resolved.

Relevant legislation regarding veterinary medicinal products is not well suited to approve the use of vaccines in emergency situations.

The current review of legislation dealing with veterinary medicinal products is an ideal opportunity to introduce a mechanism for the approval of vaccines for emergency use at European level.

Proposals to be considered could include alternatives to vaccine banks, such as vaccine master seed stocks and 'mock up' authorisations for particular vaccines.

Vaccination and testing should replace unnecessary culling.



QUESTIONNAIRE

**for Competent Veterinary Authorities
to collect data on:**

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MAJOR ANIMAL DISEASES**