

Enhancing mucosal immunity in chickens



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Infection in chickens caused by microbial pathogens at the intestinal surface can be a challenge for the Australian poultry industry. However, there are a number of novel vaccination strategies which can enhance antibody production and reduce the incidence of infection and ultimately improve flock health and performance. The series of experiments in this study seek to evaluate these techniques and determine the most effective method for improving chickens' antibody production levels. These include delivery of mammalian substances to embryos that are known to stimulate an immune response. In particular, the delivery of dietary supplements Vitamin E and the cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6) were assessed.