



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Zoetis is at IPPE in booth B19021.

***Poultry Expert Insights From Zoetis:** This content series is designed to inspire conversations around the expanding use of vector vaccines to address prominent disease challenges facing global poultry producers and veterinarians. Leading experts provide analysis and insights on relevant research and what they are seeing in terms of effective vaccination strategies that are working. This is the third in a six-part series from Zoetis.*

**Vector vaccines help solve global IBDV Challenges**

**PARSIPPANY, N.J., — Nov. 14, 2024** — The diversity of infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV) strains worldwide poses a challenge to the poultry industry, but vector vaccines are helping producers successfully manage flock health, said Angela Hartman, PhD, research director, Zoetis.

For background, very virulent IBDV (vvIBDV) strains have been circulating globally for decades. However, in the United States, while high mortality can rarely occur, the bigger problem has been performance issues due to immune suppression caused by variant strains, she said.

Recently, more complex issues have arisen in the Asia-Pacific region, where live vaccine-virus strains have recombined with field strains, posing questions over continued vaccine efficacy.

“In some of those cases, the vaccines aren’t able to work as effectively, because the epitopes needed for vaccine efficacy have changed where they have recombined.



Unfortunately, we're now actually seeing even additional recombination of those isolates with very virulent strains," Hartman said.

## **Vector vaccine advantages**

In the face of such field challenges, herpesvirus of turkey (HVT) vector vaccines may provide a solution. They bring several key advantages – including compatibility with both *in ovo* and subcutaneous application and the way the HVT vector replicates within the bird – to provide both early onset of immunity and lifelong protection in broilers, she said.

“Early protection is essential because IBDV tends to affect younger birds and is highly immunosuppressive,” Hartman said. “However, just as critical as early onset of immunity is, so is ensuring that we have protection against relevant contemporary IBDV challenges.”

## **Early onset of immunity**

Challenge studies including Poulvac® Procerta® HVT-IBD showed early onset of immunity against classical and variant IBDV at 14 days of age. For vvIBDV, efficacy was observed as early as 12 days of age – through both *in ovo* and subcutaneous routes – and remained high at later time points.<sup>1</sup>

“Unlike many live IBD vaccines, HVT-IBD vaccines can be administered in the hatchery, as MDA do not interfere with IBD protection,” Hartman said. “The strong efficacy we observed in birds with high MDA confirms that Poulvac Procerta HVT-IBD helps close the window of IBD susceptibility between the loss of maternal immunity and the onset of active immunity initiated by vaccination. The result would be fewer early infected flocks and reduced bursal damage as maternal antibodies start to wane at around 14 days of age.”

Reference:

<sup>1</sup> Brown A, Brown T, Bosserd M, et al. Early onset and duration of immunity of an HVT-IBD vaccine against virulent, variant, and very virulent infectious bursal disease challenges. Poster presented at: 2023 WVPA Congress; Sept. 4-8; Verona, Italy.



## About Zoetis

As the world's leading animal health company, Zoetis is driven by a singular purpose: to nurture our world and humankind by advancing care for animals. After innovating ways to predict, prevent, detect, and treat animal illness for more than 70 years, Zoetis continues to stand by those raising and caring for animals worldwide - from veterinarians and pet owners to livestock farmers and ranchers. The company's leading portfolio and pipeline of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and technologies make a difference in over 100 countries. A Fortune 500 company, Zoetis generated revenue of \$8.1 billion in 2022 with approximately 13,800 employees. For more, visit [www.zoetis.com](http://www.zoetis.com).

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