SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

3rd Working Group meeting on vaccination against Newcastle disease

20 August 2026
13:00-17:00

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Alessio BORTOLAMI, Fernanda DOREA, Anna PIKULA, Arjan STEGEMAN, Calogero TERREGINO
- EMA:
  Diana BUSTAMANTE
- EFSA:
  BIOHAW Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI, Alessandro BROGLIA, Sasan FEREIDOUNI

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and to the preparatory meetings listed under the agenda item "Preparatory meeting(s) with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in these meetings were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Scientific topics for discussion

Newcastle disease vaccination mandate – Protocol development, data collection and modelling approach (EFSA-Q-2026-00300; EFSA-Q-2026-00301)

The progress of the **systematic literature review on vaccine efficacy** against Newcastle disease genotype VII viruses was presented. The WG experts reviewed the search strategy, screening process and eligibility criteria. After discussing the challenges associated with determining commercial availability and relevance of vaccines from published studies, members agreed to maintain a conservative approach during the second screening phase and to focus on studies providing relevant efficacy data against genotype VII viruses. Alessio will complete the level 2 screening and report the final number of eligible papers to support decisions on data extraction and resource allocation. The group discussed options for data extraction from the selected studies. It was agreed that the development of the extraction form should start as soon as the first papers are accepted, using examples from previous projects as a basis.

[1] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

An update was provided on the collection of information from vaccine manufacturers through the **EMA survey** and from **National Reference Laboratories network**. Responses are still being gathered, with several follow-up discussions ongoing. The group noted that evidence from the literature review, manufacturers and NRLs will be integrated to provide a comprehensive overview of available vaccines and efficacy data.

The Working Group reviewed the status of **outbreak data collection from countries affected** by Newcastle disease since January 2023. While responses have been received from several countries, additional follow-up is needed, particularly to obtain missing genotype information. The deadline for data collection was confirmed as 4 September, and reminders will be sent to Member States with outstanding responses.

The group discussed factors such as vaccination route, timing and the presence of immunosuppressive diseases that may influence vaccine effectiveness. Those factors should be mentioned and further explored in the scientific scientific opinion under ToR 2.a.

The group discussed the **interpretation of the Terms of Reference** and the structure of the **protocol**. Experts reviewed the draft protocol included in Appendix A and agreed to finalise it by 11 September to allow endorsement by the AHAW Panel.

The draft survey on **vaccination and surveillance practices** was also reviewed. Experts discussed the scope and feasibility of the information requested from Member States, including vaccine use, vaccination protocols, field effectiveness and surveillance activities. Particular attention was given to distinguishing evidence of infection with and without clinical signs. The questionnaire will be piloted before its launch in early September.

Finally, the group discussed the **modelling activities** foreseen under the mandate. Experts agreed that both within-flock and population-level approaches should be explored to address the different objectives of the scientific opinion. The feasibility of the modelling work will largely depend on the availability of detailed outbreak, farm and vaccination data from affected countries as well as population data from affected coutries. A dedicated discussion with the modelling team will further refine the proposed scenarios and data requirements.

Actions agreed

- Alessio to complete the level 2 screening and report the final number of eligible papers by Monday.
- All WG members to review the draft survey on vaccination and surveillance practices by 28 August.
- All WG members to review Appendix A and provide input on the interpretation of the Terms of Reference by 26 August.
- The Working Group to finalise the protocol by 11 September.

V. Next meeting

Upcoming online WG meetings:

- 14 September (9.00-13.00).

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

2nd Working Group meeting on vaccination against Newcastle disease

22 July 2026
09:00-13:00

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Alessio BORTOLAMI, Fernanda DOREA, Christian GRUND, Anna PIKULA, Arjan STEGEMAN, Calogero TERREGINO
- EMA:
  Eleonora BASTINO, Diana BUSTAMANTE
- EFSA:
  BIOHAW Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and to the preparatory meetings listed under the agenda item "Preparatory meeting(s) with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in these meetings were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 25 June 2026, via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 2 July 2026.

V. Scientific topics for discussion

Newcastle disease vaccination mandate – Protocol development, data collection and modelling approach (EFSA-Q-2026-00300; EFSA-Q-2026-00301)

The meeting was held to review progress on the activities supporting the mandate on Newcastle disease (ND) vaccination.

An update was provided on the ongoing evidence collection activities. The **literature review** on ND vaccine efficacy is progressing, with the screening of identified publications underway

[1] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

and the data extraction approach to be reviewed. The WG was also informed that the collection of additional **information on ND outbreaks** from affected countries had been launched, with submissions expected by 28 August. In parallel, vaccine manufacturers identified by **EMA** have been contacted to gather information on the efficacy of ND vaccines against genotype VII viruses.

The draft **assessment protocol** was reviewed, focusing on the interpretation of the Terms of Reference (ToRs), the assessment questions and the methods proposed to address them. The WG agreed to review and provide further inputs before the protocol is submitted for endorsement by the Animal Health and Welfare Panel in September.

The WG also discussed ongoing and planned data collection activities, including the draft questionnaire on **ND vaccination practices** in Member States and the consultation of the **NRL network** to identify additional evidence on vaccine efficacy against genotype VII viruses. WG experts agreed to provide comments on the data collection on vaccination practices to support its finalisation.

The proposed **modelling approach** was reviewed. Discussions focused on the diversity of vaccination practices across Member States, the specific legislative framework applicable to ND, and the need to define realistic vaccination scenarios for modelling purposes. Potential countries, vaccination scenarios and data requirements were considered and will be further refined in dedicated technical discussions.

Actions agreed

- Alessio Bortolami to continue the literature review activities, including completion of the abstract screening; Christian Grund to support the review of the data extraction form.
- Francesca Baldinelli to coordinate and follow up the collection of additional outbreak information from affected countries.
- The EURL to launch the consultation of the NRL network to gather evidence on vaccine efficacy against genotype VII viruses.
- WG members to review and provide comments on the draft assessment protocol (Appendix A).
- WG members to review the draft questionnaire on ND vaccination practices in Member States (Annex B).
- Fernanda Dórea, with input from the WG, to further develop the interpretation of the ToRs for inclusion in the protocol.
- A dedicated technical meeting to be organised to further refine the modelling approach, identify priority countries and define vaccination scenarios for analysis.

VI. Next meeting

Upcoming online WG meetings:

- 20 August (13.00-17.00),
- 14 September (9.00-13.00).

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

1st Working Group meeting on vaccination against Newcastle disease

25 June 2026
13:00-17:00

Location: Webconference
Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Alessio BORTOLAMI, Fernanda DOREA, Anna PIKULA, Calogero TERREGINO
- EMA:
  Eleonora BASTINO, Diana BUSTAMANTE
- EFSA:
  BIOHAW Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI, Alessandro BROGLIA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Arjan STEGEMAN.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and to the preparatory meetings listed under the agenda item "Preparatory meeting(s) with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in these meetings were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings..

IV. Scientific topics for discussion

Newcastle disease vaccination mandate – Data collection strategy, protocol development and modelling approach (EFSA-Q-2026-00300; EFSA-Q-2026-00301)

The overall mandate received from the European Commission, together with the Terms of Reference (ToRs), was presented to the working group experts. The proposed approach for data collection, evidence generation and modelling activities was subsequently discussed.

The experts reviewed and agreed the proposed data collection strategy, which will combine information from vaccine manufacturers, Member States, National Reference Laboratories (NRLs), existing databases (UPD and ADIS) and the scientific literature. The draft questionnaires and data collection templates were discussed, with particular attention to ensuring collection of relevant information on vaccine characteristics, efficacy against

1 https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
2 https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf

genotype VII viruses, vaccine use, outbreak characteristics and vaccination practices, while minimising the burden on data providers.

The experts discussed the availability of unpublished evidence from NRLs and agreed to explore its potential contribution to the assessment. The planned literature review strategy was also reviewed, with emphasis on harmonising search and evidence extraction methods.

The expert discussed the modelling activities foreseen under the ToR 2 of the mandate, including the potential adaptation of the kernel model previously developed for avian influenza to assess vaccination strategies against Newcastle disease. Data requirements and feasibility considerations were reviewed.

Finally, the draft protocol was presented and discussed. The experts reviewed the alignment between the ToR, assessment questions, data collection activities and analytical approaches. Further refinements of the protocol and data collection tools will be undertaken during the summer, with the aim of starting data collection in the coming weeks and supporting protocol endorsement by the Panel in September.

Few actions were identified following the meeting. EFSA will finalise the questionnaires and data collection templates, initiate contacts with Member States, and circulate the updated protocol for review by the WG. EMA will initiate contacts with vaccine manufacturers and the EURL with the NRLs.

V. Next meeting

In July, date to be confirmed.