

### **Medication/Vaccination:**

Poultry Vaccination is the first line of action in preventing poultry diseases, especially in Nigeria where highly pathogenic poultry diseases are prevalent. This is because some environmental factors like temperature and farmers' practices influence the distribution of these pathogens. Therefore it is pertinent you make use of a poultry vaccination schedule that suits your country/region.

In Nigeria however, most farmers in rural areas don't vaccinate their birds, the few who do, don't follow standard vaccination procedures, and such practices could lead to vaccine failure as well as creating a breeding ground for endemic poultry diseases such as Newcastle disease, coccidiosis, Infectious bursal disease (IBD), Marek, Salmonella, etc.

Note: Vaccination is incomplete without proper biosecurity measures; I can confidently say that no farmer can get the best protection by implementing only one of these practices and likewise when birds are always on medications due to infections that could have been prevented with proper Biosecurity measures, their immune system becomes poor and likewise residues of these drugs are transferred to human via the egg they produce.

### **Factors affecting egg production**

Typically, a layer's production cycle lasts just over a year (52-56 weeks). During the production cycle many factors influence egg production; therefore, the cycle must be managed effectively and efficiently in order to provide maximum output and profitability. The following factors influence egg production.

**Breed.** The breed of the laying bird influences egg production. Management and feeding practices, however, are the key determining features for egg production.

**Mortality rate.** Mortality rate may rise due to disease, predation or high temperature. The mortality rate of small chicks (up to eight weeks of age) is about 4 percent; that of growers (between eight and 20 weeks of age) is about 15 percent; and that of layers (between 20 and 72