

China claims first anti-bird flu vaccine

December 26 2005



China says its scientists have produced the world's first live vaccine against bird flu and Newcastle disease, both affecting poultry.

The vaccine, developed by the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute after four years of research, will be a great boost in preventing and controlling the two epidemics in China and elsewhere, Chief Veterinary Officer Jia Youling told a news conference in Beijing, the official China Daily reports.

Jia said research and production techniques of the new vaccine will provide reference for developing similar vaccines for human infections of bird flu.

In addition to injection, the vaccine can be administered orally, nasally

or by spraying, Jia said. He said the mass-application will significantly reduce labor costs and also increase immunity among fowl.

The expert said the vaccine's cost will be only a fifth of that of inactivated vaccines available on the market.

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