

FAQs

Chickens

1. What is the average age of the chickens?

The chickens will be at least 5-7 months old at the initiation of the project and actively laying eggs.

2. How are the chickens selected and tracked for my project?

The chickens selected for this project will be of good health status showing no obvious signs of disease or illness. All animals are inspected by the attending veterinarian at least once every 30 days. Each project animal will be assigned an individual animal ID# that will serve as project identification and will be labeled on all project samples and corresponding paperwork. The hens will be identified by a numbered leg band, which will correspond in the animal file to the animal ID# as secondary identification.

3. How are the chickens housed at the farm?

The chickens are housed one chicken per cage in single level caging with perches.

4. What happens to the chickens once my project is complete?

If you decide that you no longer need the chicken(s) beyond the project completion, they are euthanized.

5. What happens if a chicken dies in the middle of my project?

As long as it is not antigen related, the chicken is replaced at no additional charge. The project will have to start from day 1.

6. How many chickens can you accommodate at most (max capacity, for 1 project?)

We have had some of our diagnostic customers do up to 20 chickens per antigen. More than 20 chickens is possible, please inquire for specific project needs.

Antigens

1. Are there restrictions for the antigen you can use for immunizing chickens?

We can accept any antigens however we do have some guidelines: Biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) materials cannot be accepted. If antibody production is requested using potentially pathogenic or toxic materials, such as recombinant DNA, cellular antigens or organisms such as viruses or bacteria additional information must be provided by the customer for review. Please note that additional information needed includes the following: 1. For recombinant DNA-antigens PI must provide information on promoter used. 2. Cellular antigens must have the parent cell line defined including chain of custody information as well as any pathology testing data. 3. For bacterial and viral antigens, the information needed includes the dose (for viruses to be in (PFU) plaque-forming units), serotype/strain, chain of custody for any parent cell lines used, zoonotic potential and what species it may affect as well as the inactivation method with validation data provided.

2. How much antigen do you generally need to immunize chickens and get a proper immune response from the chicken ?

We usually inject 250ug for primary with CFA and 150ug per booster with IFA delivered SQ. However immune reactions will occur to as little as 1/10th as much as the previously mentioned amounts. Exact dosage may be determined by you, if you wish to deviate from our standard protocol. However, it must be concentrated enough to stay within 500ul total volume for antigen.

3. Are there any requirements for how the antigen is shipped to you?

Most customers will ship to us FedEx on blue ice or using dry ice depending on material requirements. You can ship either aliquoted per injection per animal or we can aliquot upon arrival.

4. Can we specify how much antigen we want you to use for each booster?

Yes, but it must be concentrated enough to stay within 500ul total volume for antigen.

5. Is the antigen shipped back to me upon completion of the project?

Yes if not all is used up, the antigen is returned to you.

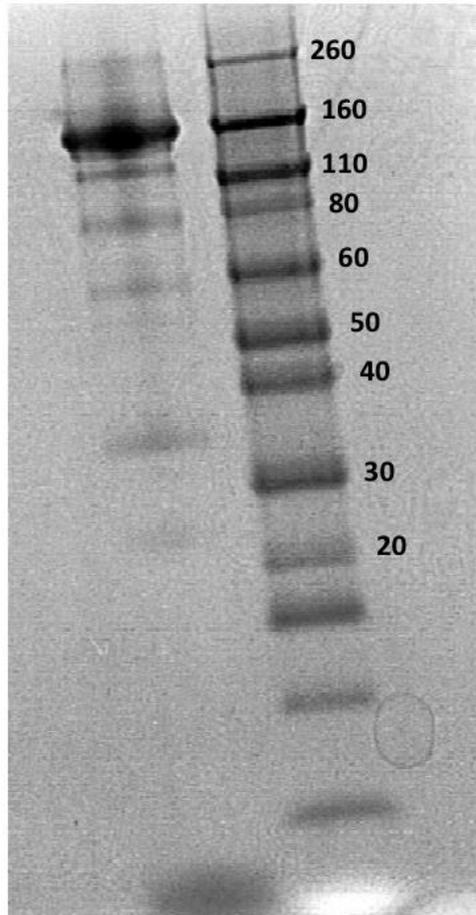
6. If I have designed and synthesized my own peptide, could I ship it to you for immunization?

Yes, as long as it is conjugated to KLH ready to immunize a chicken with.

Other

1. What is the average purity of the IgY?

By SDS gel electrophoresis the IgY purity is between 85 and 90%.



**Non-reduced 4-12% Bis-Tris Polyacrylamide Gel
Electrophoresis**

Lane 1: Normal Chicken IgY (Gallus Immunotech)

Lane 2: Molecular Weight Standards

2. May I receive pre-immune eggs so I may screen and choose the chicken(s) for my project?

Yes! Be sure to let us know that you would like pre-immune eggs so we may include this in your quote.

3. Can you use our custom-made protocol for immunization (are there additional costs for this)?

Yes, we can use customized protocols that is not a problem at all. There are no additional costs for this as long as the total project duration does not exceed 60 days.

4. If I ordered just eggs, how are eggs shipped?

We usually do ship yolks pooled with addition of sodium azide. This way we can guarantee you will receive the egg yolk (containing the antibody). However, upon request we can also ship whole eggs. These may break during transportation. We cannot be held responsible for how any eggs that arrive damaged at your facility if you chose this option.