

# World Focus

An executive summary of key international issues

## *Too many eggs in too few baskets?*

### Breeding

*As further consolidations occur in the breeding world and, as those who own the remaining smaller breeders invariably view their options, we must ask one question – ‘if we end up with just two or three players in each breeding sector are too many eggs in too few baskets?’ Yes, breeders can divide their key asset and locate their breeders on different continents. This may protect them from the ravages of disease, but does it protect them from their managers and geneticists ‘getting it wrong’? Consolidation should provide the resources for R&D but, if we look at history, there have been so many instances of a breeder getting it wrong. Where is our safety net?*

## *Too little testing of too few flocks?*

### Immunity

*As increasingly less reliance is being placed on treating disease and much more is being placed on preventing it, especially by vaccination, we must know that we are providing our flocks with the best protection possible. This can be done by blood testing our flocks to confirm that they have adequate vaccinal immunity. Yet, it is quite amazing how many flocks are never blood tested for this purpose. Has the time come for us to focus more on using this key, and very valuable, management tool? If so, how many flocks do we screen? Do we screen every flock or just a proportion of them to get an overview of the situation?*

## *Are broilers living long enough to be vaccinated?*

### Vaccination

*As broilers perform better and better they tend to be processed at even younger ages. This being the case, the number of days when they are fully protected by traditional vaccination is similarly reducing and if considered in percentage terms is reducing at a much faster rate. We can counter this to some extent by in ovo vaccination, but should we see if the principles used in Gumboro vaccination, when we vaccinate the parents to protect the chicks, work better? Yes we should! It has already been done for *Salmonella enteritidis* and now a novel vaccine that uses this principle has been launched in some countries for coccidiosis. Which disease entities will be next?*