

BOVINE SERUM INOCULATION OF CHICKENS AT DIFFERENT
AGES AND ITS EFFECT ON THE SECONDARY RESPONSE

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Chickens were given single primary inoculation of 40 mgs of bovine serum albumin per KBW at either 20 days or 6, or 12 weeks of age. A single secondary injection of 40 mg per KBW was given at 6, 12 and 22 weeks. Bleedings were made on several days beginning with the 4th day following the injection. The antibody nitrogen of the circulating blood was determined as was the disappearance of the antigen. The primary inoculation at 20 days did not sensitize the birds and no secondary response was evident at 6, 12 or 22 weeks of age. Only a few of the chickens given a primary inoculation at 6 weeks gave a secondary type of response when challenged at 12 or 22 weeks of age. The results indicate a certain maturity of the immune mechanism must be present in order for the chicken to be able to be sensitized to give a secondary type of response.

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