

USDA awards contracts to two companies for bird flu vaccines

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A federal agency has awarded contracts to two companies to manufacture a bird flu vaccine.

But officials haven't decided whether to give the doses to poultry to protect against a disease that led to the destruction of 48 million [chickens](#) and [turkeys](#) this spring.

The Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday it had awarded contracts to Harrisvaccines of Ames, Iowa, and Ceva, a [company](#) based in France.

The USDA didn't release the cost of the contracts.

As part of the agreement, the companies agreed to manufacture an unspecified number of doses, store them for up to five years and deliver them throughout the U.S. within 10 days.

The USDA says it would need to decide whether the treatment would be effective and weigh potential trade effects before using any vaccine.

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