

## **Premature to link Mexican papaya to outbreak of Salmonella Uganda in the United States**

The National Service of Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) stated that it is premature to refer to Mexican papaya as the contamination source.



In light of the preventive notice issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of such country warning its population of a Salmonella Uganda outbreak, Senasica declared it was premature to pinpoint Mexican papaya as the contamination source.

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) mentioned that as long as the investigation conducted by CDC is not completed and the battery involved is not isolated, it cannot be claimed that imported papaya is responsible for this outbreak.

FDA notified to Senasica that 62 cases of the bacteria Salmonella Uganda infection have been recorded in Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Texas.

It should be noted that, pursuant to information issued by SENASICA National Reference Center for Pesticides and Contaminants, there is no isolation of Salmonella Uganda in papaya; additionally, it is known that this strain has been associated only with animal processed food.

The agency of Sader asked the FDA for the scientific evidence necessary to follow up on the case, awaiting the conclusion of its investigation and asking to conclusively determine the vehicle which caused ill people to become infected.