

Secretariat of Agriculture Delivers National Animal Health Award 2019

Yolanda Maricela Barrera Tenorio is recognized for her work in epidemiology of bovine tuberculosis and her collaboration in the Emergency Operation against Venezuelan equine encephalitis.



Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) awarded the National Animal Health Award 2019 to Yolanda Maricela Barrera Tenorio, for her outstanding work in the field of zootechnical veterinary medicine in the interest of animal health in Mexico.

On behalf of chief director of National Service of Food Safety and Agricultural Quality (Senasica), Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, general director of Animal Health, Juan Gay Gutiérrez, gave the recognition to the researcher.

The Sader official stressed that the National Animal Health Award recognizes the efforts of great characters in the field and, as for Yolanda Barrera, he reiterated that her collaboration has been decisive in health emergencies due to Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis.

“If someone deserved this award, it is Yolanda, representing many others who silently cooperate every day in the construction and strengthening of animal health that we have in Mexico,” he expressed.

Moments before receiving this recognition, Barrera Tenorio gave a keynote lecture on her more than 30 years’ experience as a zootechnical veterinary doctor in Secretariat of Agriculture and, specially, on her participation in the fight against pests and diseases such as cattle screwworm, bovine paralytic rabies and in campaigns against tuberculosis and brucellosis.

She indicated that when she began her work in the public sector, at the end of 1960s, there was still discrimination against veterinary women, so she had to

demonstrate her knowledge, honesty and ethical commitment to make her way, mainly in field work.

She stressed that animal health is an essential pillar for the production of healthy food and to protect public health. She stressed that in the livestock sector all members of the value chain, such as producers, authorities, veterinary doctors and pharmaceutical industry, must work as a team to provide satisfactory results.

Barrera Tenorio was born in Mexico City on June 26, 1944 and graduated from the National School of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics of National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 1967. The title of her thesis was Kon-Abon Action on Avian Smallpox injuries.

Her experience in the public sector includes positions such as regional coordinator of Mexico-United States Commission for prevention of foot-and-mouth disease and other exotic animal diseases (CPA); participated, in the early 90's, in the National Emergency Device for Animal Health (Dinesa) for Screwworm and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis.

National Animal Health Award 2019 was presented during the 27th Annual Meeting of National Animal Health Advisory Council (Conasa), in Durango, Durango, before members of 22 committees of the agency, researchers, veterinarians, academics, students, speakers, and specialists.

In the 28 editions of National Animal Health Award, four women have been recognized with the award: in 1992, Aline Schunemann de Aluja was awarded; in 1995, Aurora Velázquez Echegaray; in 2018, Nélida Jiménez González, and now, for the second consecutive year, a female veterinary doctor, Yolanda Maricela Barrera Tenorio, was awarded.

The 27th Annual Conasa Meeting was inaugurated by governor of Durango, José Rosas Aispuro, who stressed that the livestock producers of that entity have worked in the health field of to achieve greater status and improve their income.

He said that, for two years, Durango regained the status of a modified creditor, which has allowed it to grow its exports to United States from 126 thousand heads of stock in the previous cycle to more than 180 thousand heads in this year.

“In Durango, we will continue betting on animal health, the whole issue of traceability and food safety, because on that depends a good part of the countryside economy. We are working to maintain the current status and for us to reach the advanced status, which is the highest, and that only Sonora has it”, he noted.

The governor was recognized by Conasa for his outstanding work in favor of animal health of the state.

Chairman to Technical Advisory Board of Conasa, Eduardo Posadas Manzano, said that the good work of the state in livestock matters has resulted in that exportation of calves from Durango now represents 13 percent of total livestock that Mexico exports to US.

The event was also attended by state Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, Joel Corral, municipality president of Durango, Jorge Salum del Palacio, and director of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics of UNAM, Francisco Suárez Güemez, among others.