

The Secretariat of Agriculture and the Government and Cattlemen of Sinaloa trace a plan to improve health status

Reestablishing the status is necessary to enable producers to market their cattle under conditions that increase competitiveness and to move livestock more easily.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development will work in coordination with the Government of Sinaloa and producers to implement the necessary actions to recover the health status in regards to bovine tuberculosis (Tb), a condition necessary for exporting and moving live cattle with no restrictions.

After the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) informed the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) that as of October 28 it reclassified the state of Sinaloa from 'Accreditation preparatory' (AP) to 'Non-accredited' (NA), the Agriculture Department proposed to producers to establish strategies to recover the necessary exporter status.

To reestablish the Accreditation preparatory status, Sinaloa must demonstrate that the Tb program meets the minimum standards required by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and that it has satisfactorily resolved all recommendations, including the conclusion of the sanitary sweep, with the approval of the SENASICA.

Last December, the APHIS granted an extension for the entity's cattlemen to correct the deficiencies found in the Tb program during the certification visit, for which they should meet 22 critical recommendations.

The USDA agency acknowledged that in recent months Sinaloa's producers have shown considerable improvements in their Tb program; however, they have not fully addressed the critical recommendations issued by that agency.

The APHIS notes that the area tests (sweep) required to maintain the status were not completed, nor was sufficient regulatory control established to prevent the spread of infection in approved fattening pens, outstanding recommendations that were issued since June 2015.

He specified that in the area tests herds with Tb have been detected and the prevalence in 2018 slightly exceeded the maximum level established to be classified as AP, since it reached 0.53 percent.

It is important to keep in mind that since the prevalence of Tb infection in the US is low, APHIS and SENASICA's authorities agreed to operate a Joint Strategic Plan in order to enable the export of live cattle from Mexico to the United States.

One of the strategies of that plan is the classification of zones according to their bovine tuberculosis prevalence, for which technicians of both countries carry out coordinated reviews of the states and regions that comply with the necessary actions for the control and eradication of the disease.

In this way, the USDA grants the status according to its classifications: 'Modified Accredited Advanced' with a Tb prevalence of less than 0.01 percent in herds of the region, which means that it can export live bovine cattle without tuberculin test, only Sonora has this recognition.

There are 13 areas in Mexico that are classified as 'Modified accredited' with a prevalence of less than 0.1 percent in herds of the region and may export with negative proof of the lot, that is, of the calves that will be sent to the US.

They can export with proof of the lot and the herd (the mothers of the calves) to the 15 zones that hold the recognition of 'Accreditation preparatory' with a prevalence of less than 0.5 percent in herds of the region. The regions having a 'Non-Accredited status', with a prevalence greater than 0.5 percent cannot export live cattle.

Currently 29 regions, equivalent to 63.74 percent of the national territory, are recognized by the USDA as having a low prevalence of tuberculosis, this means that there is an incidence of less than 0.5 percent of the disease in the area.

During the 2018-2019 export cycle of bovine cattle, which concluded in September, Mexico exported 1 million 313 thousand 131 live calves to the US, of which Sinaloa sent 292. Regaining the status will enable producers to market their cattle under conditions of greater competitiveness and to move it more easily.