

The Ministry of Agriculture promotes a transparent mechanism to regulate the introduction of healthy and high-genetic-quality cattle in Central America

During the *Cumbre de la Industria Alimentaria TIF 2019* [TIF Food Industry Summit 2019], the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos, summoned the meat industrialists to join the effort of the Mexican Government to turn the country into an effective growth and development option for all producers.



In order to prevent the transfer of cattle across the southern border of the country, a transparent and efficient process for the introduction of healthy cattle that meets the genetic quality demanded by the national and international market will be established with the Guatemalan government.

The Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, informed that the signing of an agreement in which three points of entry will be established to put order in the entry of cattle from Central America is being prepared.

“This will also allow to regulate the market and maintain the cattle herd of our country within the appropriate sanitary and genetic qualities”, said the head of Agriculture, who highlighted the role of the Mexican livestock industry.

During the TIF Food Industry Summit 2019, held in the city of Oaxaca, the federal official said that “Mexico is an international reference in terms of cattle, we are the fourth largest producer of ‘egg for plate’ and sixth in poultry and bovine meat. In addition, cattle productivity has established itself as the second activity with the highest export value in the agri-food sector, exporting meat products to 58 countries and live cattle to the United States”.

When giving a keynote lecture, he summoned meat industrialists to join the effort of the Mexican Government to turn the national country into an effective growth and development option for producers.

In order to do that, he said, everyone’s daily work in a framework of integrity, honesty, responsibility and an ethical attitude is necessary.

“It is essential to pay off the huge social debt that we have with the majority of the population in the rural areas of the country, where poverty is a distinctive sign”, he emphasized in the meeting organized by the National Association of Federal Inspection Establishments (ANETIF).

“We work on a great national project based on the participation of all. The contribution of citizens, civil society, organized groups, businessmen, workers, rural producers and the government is of great value to achieve a more democratic, just and equitable nation”, he highlighted.

“We must focus on those who had been marginalized from support for equitable development, but also continue to promote the agri-food sector that generates foreign currency for the country and that has turned Mexico into a food producing and exporting powerhouse”, said Villalobos Arámbula.

Before the meat industrialists, he said that it will be accompanied with technical assistance, outreach activities and consumables for the producers, so that food self-sufficiency in basic products is a reality and, at the same time, the right to food is enforced and the conditions and quality of life of those living in poverty improves.

The promotion of smallholder livestock activity will allow progress towards food self-sufficiency and the consolidation of a cattle industry that ensures healthy and safe food products accessible to the population, he marked out.

At the closing ceremony of the summit, the Chief Director of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA), Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, stressed the importance of more than 60 years of TIF certification history, in which the federal government and the meat industry in Mexico converge through the Secretariat of Agriculture, to give certainty to thousands of workers and reliability to national and international consumers.

The challenge now is to create schemes that allow the modernization and certification of all slaughter establishments that supply meat products to national consumers, for all of them to comply with the international safety standard with which the TIF Establishments operate, he concluded.

The president of ANETIF, Mario Gorena Mireles, informed that there are currently 468 certified establishments in the country and that some of them operate with different sets of operations. Nuevo León is the state that has the most TIF plants with 79 in operation, followed by the State of Mexico with 57 and Mexico City with 51.

He added that 297 TIF plants produce cold cuts and processed meat, 224 are dedicated to cutting and deboning of meat, 203 are refrigerators, 174 are slaughterhouses and 17 are distribution centers.