

The Secretariat of Agriculture prevents the use of clenbuterol for fattening bovine cattle

The SENASICA operates four programs with meat producers, fatteners, storers and processors to reduce the risk of contamination.



To inhibit the use of clenbuterol in the feeding of bovine cattle intended for human consumption, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) operates diverse programs that certify the work of meat producers, fatteners, storers and processors.

Through the Reliable Supplier, Reliable Introducer, TIF Shielding and Continuous Verification programs for animal food manufacturers, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development supervises that beef coming from certified livestock production units is free of clenbuterol, a substance that causes intoxication in human beings.

The Reliable Supplier program is aimed at producers dedicated to fattening or liquidation of animals, to guarantee the consumers that all the products from a pen enrolled in the program's register comes from cattle raised without the application of the anabolic.

268 production units, with a population of 1,013,908 cattle heads were enrolled as of October 2019. Producers from 19 states are enrolled: San Luis Potosi - 293,939 heads; Sinaloa - 197,176 heads; Veracruz - 187,427 heads, and Nuevo Leon - 166,251 heads.

The Reliable Introducer program is designed for individuals dedicated to store animals of batches from different fattening or production units, intended for slaughter at Federal Inspection Type (TIF) establishments and municipal slaughterhouses, which are recognized as suppliers of healthy, safe and quality beef, for the benefit of the consumer.

This type of cattle must come from units that have a herd free of clenbuterol official letter, and the Reliable Supplier certificate. The program operates in 10 states with a register of 129 introducers, the majority of which are from San Luis Potosi, Jalisco and Guanajuato.

The TIF Shielding program aims to reduce the risk that beef processed in this type of establishments contains residues of the anabolic; therefore, any animals admitted for sacrifice at TIF establishments must have the Reliable Supplier and Introducer certificates.

SENASICA's technicians carry out directed samplings at production units that have reported positive cases. 3,781 samplings were carried out during 2019, from which 5 cases were confirmed, that is, an incidence level of 0.13.

The Continuous Verification program for animal food manufacturers consists in the random inspection of 70% in average of such establishments across the 32 states.

The use of the anabolic agent clenbuterol for cattle fattening is classified as a criminal offense in the Federal Animal Health Law.

Clenbuterol is used to increase weight in bovine animals and other species. Meat products contaminated by this agent cause intoxications, with symptoms that include headaches, accelerated heart rate, tremors, nausea, dizziness and chills.