

Secretariat of Agriculture strengthens actions to protect Mexico from the presence of African Swine Fever in Dominican Republic

The National Service for Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) works with Mexican swine producers to increase security measures in their commercial or family production units and motivate them to immediately report any suspected cases of this disease.



On account of the first confirmed case of African swine fever (ASF) in Dominican Republic, the National Service for Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) is bolstering its defense measures and epidemiological surveillance, in order to protect the national swine industry from this dangerous disease.

Therefore, the agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development ordered to reinforce the first sanitary defense barriers, which implies zoosanitary inspection in all ports, airports and borders of entry into Mexico.

Despite the fact that shipments of swine products and by-products from that country are not allowed, inspection actions for travelers from Dominican Republic will be imposed, as part of the actions being applied to prevent the entry of prohibited products into Mexican territory.

Likewise, the inspection of orders, kitchens, storage rooms and waste from commercial ships, cruise ships and airplanes is intensified, in order to seal them for their return to the country of origin or to guarantee that these are destroyed in an adequate manner.

The Senasica also reinforces the work in the Sanitary Emergency Operations Center (COES), which daily searches for and concentrates the health information that is reported throughout the world, on this and other animal diseases that are not present in Mexico.

Likewise, the General Directorate of Health is intensifying the epidemiological surveillance work carried out in the field, through technicians of the Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Animal Exotic Diseases (CPA).

Senasica has been preparing to prevent the entry of this disease and, where appropriate, to address it efficiently and timely. The Senasica has bolstered the capacity of its technicians and laboratories, as well as through virtual AUTOSIM. Senasica has trained more than two thousand students, veterinarians, producers and technicians of the production sector, in order to increase their ability to detect timely dangerous swine diseases.

It should be noted that in September 2019, the Secretariat of Agriculture carried out an African swine fever massive drill, through which, Secretariat of Agriculture successfully tested its detection and reaction mechanisms in the event of the presence of this disease in Mexico.

It is important to highlight that to face animal health emergencies, the Senasica installed several years ago a network of 21 laboratories nationwide and a central one in Mexico City; some of them perform genomic sequencing to determine the part finest of agents entering.

This Agriculture agency also has world-class specialized technicians, epidemiologists and a complete team to fight this disease.

Additionally, this Mexican health authority works permanently in coordination with its counterparts in the United States and Canada, in order to increase the protection of the North American bloc, which is free of the disease.

In view of the foregoing, the Senasica invites Mexican swine producers to increase security measures in their commercial or family production units and to keep an eye on the presence of dangerous swine diseases.

If any of your swine show symptoms such as: high mortality, lack of appetite, weakness, fever, nasal discharge, difficulty in breathing, vomiting, purple or bruised discoloration of the skin (mainly on ears or abdomen), bloody mucous diarrhea and miscarriages, this must be immediately reported to the Senasica.

To this end, this Agriculture agency makes various communication channels available to users: by telephone at 800 751 2100, which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days, or, from Monday to Friday at 55 5905 1000 Ext. 51236, 51242 and 51243. Via email, you can write to sive.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx or gestioncpa.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx; these can also be reported through the AVISE app, available for iOS and Android devices.

ASF is a disease listed in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and is subject to compulsory notification.

It is a disease of viral origin, which only affects domestic swine and wild boars, and is not transmissible to people. It is spread by direct contact between animals and through the tick of the genus *Ornithodoros*, not being present in America, but it is present in Asia, Africa and Europe.

From 2014 as to date, reports of the presence of this disease have been issued to OIE, mainly from Asian and European countries such as: Germany, Belgium, Russia, Moldova, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, China and Korea, among others.

Dominican Republic is the first case reported in the Americas in recent years, which was confirmed by the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which analyzed the samples collected in the affected country.