

The Secretariat of Agriculture reports a 100% inspection rate for the poultry production units in Coahuila and Durango

The National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) will activate the Animal Health National Emergency Device (Dinesa) to reinforce the countrywide epidemiological surveillance measures.



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The National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) informed that 100% of the poultry farms in Durango

and Coahuila, where the outbreak of AH7N3 highly pathogenic avian influenza took place, were inspected.

The agency from the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development stated that 298 poultry production units were sampled.

The presence of the disease was suspected in 48 farms in the country's northern region (3 of them in Chihuahua), and was confirmed, through lab analysis, in 20 units (10 in Coahuila and 10 in Durango), where 1,887,672 birds died, either from the disease or by humane slaughter, and were buried in sanitary pits under official control.

The agency further declared that those actions were implemented to protect over 35 million birds, the majority of which of high genetic value, and that currently the contaminated farms are undergoing a sanitary depopulation process for cleaning and disinfection, in order to be repopulated later.

At this time, experts from the Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Animal Exotic Diseases (CPA) of the SENASICA are carrying out weekly sampling in all the poultry production units in Coahuila and Durango, to verify that the virus is no longer in circulation in the region, and to lift, if appropriate, the internal quarantine established by the agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture.

Even if the outbreak is currently under control, the SENASICA indicated that it will activate the Animal Health National Emergency Device (Dinesa) to reinforce the nationwide epidemiological surveillance works to prevent the dispersal of the H7N3 virus, which is present in many states in the central region of the country, and is the cause of the current northern outbreak.

The implementation of the device will also make possible the application of preventive measures against the threat posed by the migration season of aquatic birds (from October to March), since the ducks and geese that travel south during winter could carry with them many avian flu virus strands that are not present in our national territory, like the highly pathogenic H5N1 strand which currently is expanding across the United States and has caused the death of nearly 40 million poultry there.

The SENASICA urges producers to timely report and raise the biosafety measures at their production units.

The measures established to contain the H7N3 outbreak (which are valid for all avian influenza viruses) include controls to the mobilization of bird waste, and of live birds and their products and byproducts, to guarantee that the goods that come out of the farms in the affected region do not threaten the rest of the country.

The agency from the Secretariat of Agriculture insisted in urging commercial and family producers to raise the biosafety measures in their farms, and invited all individuals that produce, process, handle, transports, or trades birds to immediately report to the health authorities any abnormal behavior in their flocks, such as unusual mortality or any other suspicious sign of the disease, to the 24-hour phone number 800 751 2100, or via smartphone through the “AVISE” app.