

# The Secretariat of Agriculture Deploys the National Emergency Plan to Protect National Poultry Production

The National Animal Health Emergency Plan (Dinesa) has moved all the resources of the Mexican Government to protect the national production of food of animal origin from exotic diseases.



In order to reinforce epidemiological surveillance measures throughout the country to protect the national poultry industry from avian influenza (AI), the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development deployed the National Animal Health Emergency Plan (Dinesa).

The activation of this device allows formalizing and strengthening counter-epidemic measures for the control and eradication of highly pathogenic AI AH7N3, present in several central states of the country since 2012, as well as reinforcing measures to prevent the entry into Mexico of AI H5N1, which currently affects several countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, the United States and Canada.

The operation also reinforces the counter-epidemic measures undertaken last April to contain the outbreak of highly pathogenic AI AH7N3, detected in Durango and Coahuila, and thus protect more than 35 million birds in the region, many of them of high genetic value.

The National Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (Senasica) reported that the outbreak in the Coahuila and Durango region is under control, since in recent weeks no more poultry farms have been identified with clinical signs of the disease.

The technicians of the United States-Mexico Commission for the Prevention of Foot and Mouth Disease and other Exotic Animal Diseases (CPA) of Senasica concluded a little more than two weeks ago the review of one hundred percent of the poultry farms, however, they continue taking samples in the farms of the region to verify that the virus is not present.

Senasica emphasized that the internal quarantine is being observed in both states in order to guarantee that the movement of poultry, its products and by-products do not constitute a risk for the rest of the country.

This means that any poultry goods coming from Durango and Coahuila are certified by Senasica and are mobilized under official control.

SENASICA is in charge of Dinesa to strengthen prevention measures.

The National Animal Health Emergency Plan (*Dispositivo Nacional de Emergencia de Salud Animal*, or Dinesa) puts into action all the resources of the Mexican Government to control and eradicate an exotic pest or disease.

The Agreement by which Dinesa is activated, published in the Official Federal Gazette (DOF), states that Senasica, through the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA), will be in charge of coordinating the system, with the participation of the State Animal Health Emergency Groups (GEESA), the state governments and the industry.

The Agreement requires compliance by owners, intermediaries, traders and all persons involved in activities related to the production, industrialization, transport and marketing of poultry,

its products, by-products and all materials and instruments related to poultry farming.

Senasica personnel, distributed throughout the country, will continue to control the mobilization of poultry, their products and by-products, vehicles, containers and poultry implements, in accordance with the provisions of the Quarantine and Mobilization Control Procedures Manual.

They will be able to retain birds, their products and by-products, as well as biological, chemical, pharmaceutical and food products, for use or consumption of birds, that could cause the spread of the avian influenza virus.

The technicians will carry out the immunization of birds in producing regions when authorized by Senasica's DGSA, in order to protect and prevent the spread of the disease.

The Agreement, which will be in effect for six months, emphasizes that poultry farmers and any person involved in poultry production must notify Senasica or any office of the Secretariat of Agriculture about suspicions of the disease and describe the symptoms presented by the birds.

The Secretariat of Agriculture calls for protecting the consumption of poultry products in the country.

In addition, the Secretariat emphasized that the consumption of chicken and eggs in Mexico is safe and that their transportation is regulated by the health authority, and urged poultry producers and local governments not to restrict the entry of poultry products that comply with the requirements of current regulations for their transportation.

Furthermore, it emphasized that the supply of poultry and eggs for the entire country is guaranteed, since the outbreak is under control, and there is no justification for an increase in the prices of these products due to the disease.