Mexico, among the Main Pork Producers and Consumers in Latin America and the World

The actions carried out by the agency, through the National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) and in conjunction with the sector, have made it possible to eradicate herd diseases, keep health of production units, and guarantee meet products supply in the country.

Pork has several nutritional properties and is a good source of protein: Center for Nutrition and Health Research of the National Institute of Public Health.
Mexico has a dynamic pork industry on the rise, which is reflected in an increasing pork production and consumption that stands out in Latin America and that is backed up by the productive capacity of the sector and the support of public goods, particularly in health and safety, said the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The federal agency pointed out that in the first half of the year, Mexico was among the main consumers of pork in Latin America, with 1,322,829 tons, 30.9% of the total registered in the region. According to information from the Organization of Mexican Swine Farmers (Opormex), based on market sources, in the reference period, apparent consumption in Latin America increased 10.8 percent compared to the first six months of 2021, to total four million 281 thousand tons.

Apart from Chile, whose consumption fell 3.4 percent, the countries in the region recorded considerable increases of more than 9.0 percent. In fact, Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil consumption grew at a very similar pace, with rates of 12.6, 12.1 and 11.4 percent, in that order.

The Mexican Institute of Pig Farming - created by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Opormex, stated that the increase is attributed to the high-quality meat produced in our country, the highest level of biosecurity, campaigns to promote consumption, and the high price of other protein sources.

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development highlighted that, at the end of last year, pork production increased 2.3 percent with respect to 2020, going from 1,649,336 tons to 1,686,802 tons (or 37,466 tons more).
In 2021, the main pork producing states nationwide were Jalisco with 380,076 tons, Sonora with 311,006 and Puebla with 181,660 and Yucatán with 155,497 tons. The rest of the country’s states contributed with a production of 664,768 tons.

According to figures from the Agrífood and Fisheries Information Service (SIAP), it is estimated that in 2022 the production volume will reach 1,736 million tons, an increase of 2.95 percent.

Therefore, joint work between the Secretariat of Agriculture and Opormex has placed Mexico as the thirteenth largest pork producer in the world and has opened markets for Mexican pig farmers, who each year sell more than 250,000 tons of products in countries such as Japan, the United States, Singapore, Canada, South Korea, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Chile, and China.

The federal agency, jointly with Mexican swine producers organized in Opormex, launched the Mexican Swine Institute earlier this year to serve one of the most important sectors in our country, and aiming the promotion of scientific and technological research and as well as to it closer to small and medium-scale producers.

Moreover, it was pointed out that they will continue to work in coordination with the productive sectors such as the livestock sector, through the actions carried out by the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) to eradicate diseases in the country’s herds, maintain the health of production units, and guarantee the supply of meat products nationwide.
The federal agency pointed out that Senasica has kept an alliance with Opormex for more than three years, which has been strategic in preventing the entry of African swine fever (ASF) into the country.

Both agencies have focused their efforts on strengthening inspection programs at ports, airports, and borders, and increasing training for producers on the importance of learning about the clinical signs of red swine diseases in order to ensure timely reporting.

To strengthen animal health surveillance and inspection operations, Opormex has earmarked funds to pay the fees of 27 third-party specialists, out of which 4 were k-9 units, distributed among 12 Agricultural Health Inspection Offices (OISA) in 10 states.

It has also provided work supplies such as freezers, sanitary mats, spray pumps, disinfectant chemicals, and banners to inform the population about the actions being carried out.

**Nutritional Properties**

Pork has diverse nutritional properties and is a great source of proteins and essential amino acids that allow formation and repair of tissues, said the Center for Nutrition and Health Research of the National Institute of Public Health (CINyS-INSP).

Also, pork meat is a source of iron and zinc; the former is necessary for the formation of hemoglobin, through which our body transports oxygen to all organs and tissues, while the latter has functions within the immune system, in healing and also has antioxidant properties.
Pork also provides B vitamins, especially thiamine and B12, which are involved in energy production, the agency said.

Pork’s meat fat content varies according to the type of cut/presentation. For instance, bacon and pork chops contain large amounts of saturated fats, so their consumption should be moderate, said the CINyS-INSPI.

On the other hand, CINyS-INSPI added that leaner cuts such as loin and leg provide monounsaturated fats which are a source of energy and can also help to reduce levels of “bad” cholesterol or LDL.