

# Senasica calls for strategic vaccination to protect poultry production from avian influenza AH5N1

Technicians from the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development and National Union of Poultry Farmers outlined a vaccination plan conducive to protecting production units located in areas of high health risk



There is a vaccine produced by three laboratories in Mexico and Agriculture technicians confirm its effectiveness against this strain

In the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) AH5N1, National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) called for the strategic vaccination of long-lived birds in high-risk zoosanitary areas.

The agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development informed producers of this measure conducive to protect Mexican poultry production and guarantee the supply of chicken meat and eggs.

This vaccination will be carried out in accordance with a strategic plan outlined by the technicians of the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA) of Senasica, in coordination with the National Union of Poultry Farmers (UNA). This plan sets out to first protect parent and breeder birds, by reason of them being the cornerstone of the commodity chain, on account of them being mothers of broilers and egg-laying chickens.

Likewise, this plan considers protecting poultry production units that are located in areas of high animal health risk and thus avoid losses in the food production of chicken and eggs.

At this time there are vaccines being produced by three laboratories in Mexico that are sold abroad; however, due to the presence of HPAI AH5N1, these laboratories have been asked to include Mexico in its distribution for poultry production units (UPAs) that are authorized by Senasica to vaccinate their birds.

DGSA explained that the effectiveness tests of vaccines currently being produced in Mexico were conducted in reference laboratories of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) in other countries; thus, such available vaccines are considered to be effective.

In order to provide greater certainty, technicians of the National Center for Diagnostic Services in Animal Health (Cenasa) of Senasica, in coordination with UNA, are already conducting tests to verify the response of the biological to the strain circulating in Mexico.

### **Control actions move forward**

At the present time, technicians from the Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other Exotic Diseases in Animals (CPA) of Senasica have confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza AH5N1 in nine Mexican states.

This virus has affected four commercial UPAs, three of them in Sonora and one in Nuevo León, as well as in three backyard farms: Chiapas, Chihuahua, and the State of Mexico, with a total of 492,000 slaughtered birds, which represents a 0.023% of Mexican poultry inventory. This means that the supply of chicken meat and eggs for the national market has not been compromised.

Similarly, cases have been reported in wild birds in wetlands in the State of Mexico and Jalisco, in a protected nature reserve in Texcoco, and in parks in Baja California, Aguascalientes, and Puebla.

The agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development pointed out that coordinated work between health authorities and poultry producers has intensified, in order to increase biosecurity measures in UPAs throughout Mexico and to protect national production of chicken meat and egg.

It was informed that since the presence of the virus was detected in farms in Sonora and Nuevo León, Senasica applied internal quarantine, which, among other things, implies that in order to move and market poultry products, producers must demonstrate that their farms are free of HPAI AH5N1, through tests that must be performed by official laboratories of the Secretariat of Agriculture.

It was explained that this measure would help decrease the spread of this virus and give certainty to consumers about the safety of the poultry products they purchase.

HPAI AH5N1 is a disease that circulates in the world through migratory birds. Due to its presence in Canada and the United States, Mexican health authorities have been trying to detect in national territory for several years, in order to quickly detect it

and promptly act to avoid major damage to the commodity chain.

Senasica's CPA technicians continue addressing notifications and collecting samples in places where migratory birds arrive to quickly detect any new intrusion into Mexican territory.

Likewise, there are intense efforts underway to promote the timely notification of cases by veterinarians, producers, and general public, through the communication channels established by Senasica, such as AVISE app, phone number 800 751 2100, and offices of Secretariat of Agriculture, Senasica and CPA, in all federal entities of Mexico.