

# Secretariat of Agriculture and poultry farmers close ranks to prevent the spread of AH5N1 avian influenza in Mexico

As one of the control actions by the National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality Service (Senasica), the vaccination of birds located in areas of high animal health risk will go ahead before the end of this week



Within the framework of the joint work carried out by the National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality Service (Senasica) and the National Poultry Farmers Union (UNA), to address the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) AH5N1, the vaccination of birds will begin before the end of this week, in order to minimize its impact on poultry production units (UPA).

This vaccination will be carried out in accordance with the strategic plan outlined by the technicians of the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA) of Senasica. This plan sets out to first protect parents and breeding birds, by reason of them being the cornerstone of the commodity chain, on account of them being mothers of broiler chickens and egg-laying chickens.

UNA, the organization representing most of Mexican poultry producers, together with the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development are working to maintain the suitable supply of chicken meat and eggs for the domestic market, which, until now, has not been affected.

At a work meeting, representatives of Senasica and the poultry industry indicated that this outbreak does not pose a risk to public health, since international human health organizations do not report evidence that any person has been infected by avian influenza after consuming poultry foods such as eggs or chicken.

They commented that specialists from the U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention Control (CDC) recommend handling raw food hygienically and always cooking it above 70 degrees Celsius, a temperature that eliminates the presence of bacteria or viruses.

In addition, outbreaks of avian influenza in Europe and the United States have not resulted in health problems due to the consumption of poultry food in those areas.

Avian influenza is a typical bird disease that is only transmissible between them. Due to health controls applied by the Secretariat of Agriculture, any affected animals are slaughtered, so that the latter never gain access to any commodity chain.

During the last two months of this year, 17 countries (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, France, Kazakhstan, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, United Kingdom, Sweden, and the United States) notified the World Organization for Animal Health (WHO) of 443 HPAI outbreaks in wild birds.

According to the information registered in the World Health Information System (WAHIS) of WOAHA, between January and September 2022, 2,679 outbreaks of HPAI AH5N1 in poultry have been registered worldwide, with the highest prevalence in Europe and the United States, where so far 52 million and 50.2 million birds have been slaughtered for health reasons, respectively.