

# The Secretariat of Agriculture and Government of Jalisco sign Alliance to Strengthen the Campaign against Bovine Tuberculosis

The National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and the Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Agency of Jalisco (ASICA) are joining forces to reduce the number of production units under precautionary quarantine for bovine tuberculosis



In order to reduce prevalence of bovine tuberculosis (Tb) in Jalisco and move forward so that, in the medium term, the state recovers the animal health status for the export of calves, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development of Jalisco (SADER) signed a Letter of Intent, through which state personnel commit to assisting with the application of diagnostic tests to animals.

The document establishes that technicians from the Jalisco Agency for Health, Safety and Agro-alimentary Quality (ASICA) are authorized to carry out Caudal Fold Tests (CFT) and Comparative Cervical Tests (CCT) in production units under precautionary quarantine, that is, those in which there is suspicion of bovine tuberculosis, but the presence of infected animals has not yet been confirmed.

The measure will reduce the number of production units in precautionary quarantine in the state, speed up response times to apply diagnostic tests to suspect animals and provide the federal health authority with elements to lift quarantines in which bovine tuberculosis has been ruled out.

According to official data, there are 1,473 production units under precautionary quarantine in Jalisco, out of which 96 percent of are in areas in the control phase and the remaining 4 percent are located in areas in the eradication phase.

The chief director of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, and the head of the state agency, Ana Lucía Camacho Sevilla, signed the Letter of Intent at the end of a meeting in which they discussed issues to strengthen phytosanitary and zoosanitary actions to be taken in the state of Jalisco next year.

Trujillo Arriaga invited the local official to work hand in hand with Senasica in the coming weeks to elaborate the budget plan for Agro-alimentary Safety and Health 2023 of the entity. Such plan will be sent before the end of the year to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and to expedite the allocation of federal resources in the first days of January.

This, he said, allows SENASICA's coadjutant bodies access to federal resources in a timely manner and to promptly initiate phytosanitary and zoosanitary campaigns.

The state secretary, Ana Lucía Camacho Sevilla, stressed that the Government of Jalisco remains committed to working with Senasica in the tasks of surveillance, prevention, control and eradication of pests and diseases that could endanger the state's agro-alimentary heritage.

He emphasized that to strengthen the operation against highly pathogenic avian influenza AH5N1, carried out by Senasica, ASICA is currently operating a dissemination campaign to raise awareness among poultry producers of all sizes on the

importance of timely notification of suspected cases, and also supports surveillance to ensure compliance with the regulations imposed on the movement of live birds and excreta.

Regarding phytosanitary issues, Camacho Sevilla expressed his interest that ASICA technical professionals and fruit and vegetable producers learn about the process of production and sterilization of fruit flies.

Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, General Director of Plant Health of the Agriculture Agency, agreed with the state official that in the first weeks of December a delegation of technicians and producers from Jalisco will visit the Chiapas facilities and learn about the process of rearing, sterilization, and release of fruit flies.

He pointed out that a few years ago, some states such as Sinaloa and Nayarit strengthened their actions against the fruit fly and, once the populations dropped to eradication levels, applied the massive release of sterile flies, which resulted in the recognition as pest-free zones and their producers were able to export various fruits without heat or radiation treatments to more competitive markets.

He assured that international markets highly appreciate fruits without quarantine treatments which commercial value even doubles; thus, bringing important economic benefits for the fruit and vegetable regions. For instance, the Coastal Region of Jalisco, stands out for its mango production, he said.

Also, ASICA directors of Plant Protection, José Manuel Gutiérrez Ruelas, and of Animal Health Campaigns, Gabriel Ayala Borunda, and the general director, Eduardo Ramírez Orona, and the technical director, Aldo León Canal participated in the meeting.