

The Secretariat of Agriculture Updates New National Emergency Plan to Protect the National Poultry Industry

The National Animal Health Emergency Plan (Dinesa) establishes that poultry farmers and anyone involved in poultry production must notify the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service. (Senasica) about suspicions of the disease and describe the symptoms presented by the birds



To maintain and strengthen epidemiological surveillance measures and enhance actions for the control and eradication of highly pathogenic avian influenza (AI) AH5N1, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development activated a new National Animal Health Emergency Device (Dinesa), thereby reducing the risk of spreading the disease and protecting the national poultry industry.

The new system is integrated to the one in force since June 3, 2022, which was extended on December 1, thus providing legal and operational certainty to the measures implemented by the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (Senasica), through the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA), with the participation of the State Animal Health Emergency Groups (GEESA), the state governments and the productive sector.

The Agreement, published on Tuesday in the Official Federal Gazette (DOF), maintains in place all the resources of the Mexican Government to protect national poultry farming, which contributes more than 40 percent of the total volume of animal protein consumed in the country.

The Regulation states that owners, intermediaries, traders, and all those persons who carry out activities related to the production, industrialization, transportation and commercialization of poultry, its products, by-products and all

those materials and instruments related to poultry farming are obliged to comply with the document.

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

Thus, 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 by birds, which could cause the spread of the avian influenza virus, said the federal agency.

In terms of vaccination, Dinesa establishes that the Responsible Veterinarians Authorized by Senasica (MVRA) are the only technicians authorized to apply the biologicals to poultry in production regions.

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.

Senasica activated Dinesa since June 3, 2022, in response to the HPAI AH7N3 outbreak in the *Comarca Lagunera*. The

emergency operation concluded in that region in early September, after six consecutive weeks of no confirmed positive cases.

As a result of the permanent epidemiological surveillance carried out by Agriculture technicians, in mid-October Senasica confirmed in its laboratories the first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza AH5N1 in wild birds, and therefore intensified its counter-epidemic work and in December extended the validity of the Dinesa for six more months.

So far in Mexico, HPAI AH5N1 has affected a total of 5.5 million birds, mostly layers - 0.26 percent of the national inventory - in 23 commercial poultry production units in nine states: seven in Jalisco, nine in Yucatan, six in Sonora and one in Nuevo Leon; in the latter state, the internal quarantine has already been lifted.

In addition, five backyard farms located in Chiapas, Chihuahua, Mexico State, Oaxaca, and Tamaulipas were affected, he said.

Senasica reminded that the internal quarantine was lifted in Nuevo Leon, a measure that prevails in Jalisco, Sonora, and Yucatan, and therefore invited the members of the production chain not to move poultry products that have not been certified by the institution's technicians, after demonstrating the absence of influenza in their farms.

Moreover, Senasica also reiterated the call to immediately notify any anomaly detected in their farms and reminded that the winter migration season of waterfowl continues, so new events are not ruled out in any part of the national territory, therefore, poultry farmers should not lower their guard.

To report the suspected presence of an exotic animal disease or pest, Senasica offers the population the telephone number 800 751 2100 and the AVISE application, available for iOS and Android systems. Also, they can report at any office of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Senasica, or Coordination of the CPA, located in all states of the country.