

# **No active avian influenza A(H5N1) focuses in the country to start 2023: Secretariat of Agriculture**

For eight weeks, technicians of the SENASICA collected over 17,000 samples for virology diagnosis in 21 municipalities of Jalisco, for the strategic implementation of anti-epidemic measures to control the outbreak of avian influenza A(H5N1)



After lifting the internal quarantine on Jalisco's poultry activities yesterday, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development informed that as of today there are no active highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) focuses across the country.

The Secretariat also informed that the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) lifted the internal quarantine imposed on November 14, 2022, to poultry farming activities in the region of Los Altos of Jalisco, after verifying that the disease did not spread to other regions of the state.

This is the second time this year the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA) of the SENASICA lifts quarantine since the HPAI A(H5N1) virus was first detected in Mexico midway through October 2022, and after revoking the restrictive measures in Nuevo León on November 23. Currently only the poultry activities in the states of Sonora and Yucatán are under internal quarantine measures.

In Jalisco, the virus was contained in seven poultry production units (PPUs), which were depopulated, washed, and disinfected. At this time, absence of the virus was confirmed by laboratory tests.

The General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA) of the SENASICA informed that the last positive case of HPAI A(H5N1) in Los Altos of Jalisco was reported on December 6, 2022, and that no new infections were detected during more than three consecutive virus incubation cycles, a condition to guarantee the absence of the

disease, and accordingly, the decision was made to lift the quarantine.

For eight weeks, specialists of the Animal Health Emergency State Group (GEESA-Jalisco) of the Animal Health National Emergency Device (Dinesa) carried out the epidemiology investigation in these 21 municipalities of the state: Acatic, Arandas, Cañadas de Obregón, Jalostotitlán, Jesús María, Mexxicacán, San Julián, San Miguel el Alto, Tepatitlán de Morelos, Valle de Guadalupe, Yahualica de González Gallo, San Ignacio Cerro Gordo, Atotonilco el Alto, Encarnación de Díaz, Lagos de Moreno, Ojuelos de Jalisco, San Diego de Alejandría, San Juan de los Lagos, Teocaltiche, Unión de San Antonio, and Villa Hidalgo.

During the internal quarantine period, the members of the GEESA, headed by specialists of the SENASICA's Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Animal Exotic Diseases (CPA) carried out 220 official inquiries, and collected 17,674 samples from birds at the farms, which were analyzed in official laboratories.

The agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture underscored the fact that internal quarantine measures empower the animal health personnel to restrict the mobilization of bird excreta (broiler litter).

During the quarantine and to prevent the virus from spreading, and to protect consumers, RT-PCR tests must return negative so

the SENASICA may authorize the mobilization and commercialization of eggs and live birds.

To organize the emergency operation according to the DINESA, the SENASICA operates a Sanitary Emergencies Operations Center (COES) with the participation of the GEESA-Jalisco group and the federal authorities of the Secretariat of Agriculture, the SENASICA, the state government, and poultry producers, under the Regional Coordination Office of the CPA.

Jalisco contributes with over 54% of the total national production of egg, and 11.4% of bird meat production. Consequently, under the DGSA's emergency vaccination strategy, 51.6 million vaccine doses were authorized for application in Jalisco's PPU's.

The results of these coordinated actions to control fast contagion diseases shows that it is possible to eliminate any threats to poultry production. Therefore, the SENASICA insisted that the producers reinforce biosafety measures at their PPU's, and immediately report of any anomaly detected at their farms, since the risk is permanent due to the migration of wild fowl.

As of today, the HPAI A(H5N1) has infected 5.5 million birds in total (the majority of them egg-laying birds) or 0.26% of the national stocks, in 23 commercial poultry production units in four federated states: Yucatán (9), Sonora (6), Nuevo León (1), and Jalisco (7). Roughly over two million birds were infected in the latter state.