

The presence of cotton boll weevil decreases by 78 percent in Tamaulipas and Texas

In 2021, the Binational Program against cotton boll weevil focused mainly on strengthening preventive actions in the field of trapping and air spraying



Annual meeting of representatives of the Binational Program for the Eradication of the Cotton Boll Weevil

Health agencies in Mexico and the United States reported that, as a result of joint work between technicians and producers, captures of cotton boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis* Boheman) in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, and northern Tamaulipas, decreased by 78 percent, on average, over 2020 during 2021.

In Mexican territory, the technicians of the National Service for Agro-alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) detected this year 10 thousand 771 insects in 11 thousand 714 hectares, in which five thousand 865 installed traps, on average, were reviewed 3.2 times per month. In the same period of 2020, captures amounted to almost 30 thousand, in eight thousand 836 hectares.

Meanwhile, on the northern side of Río Bravo, U.S. authorities reported the capture of three thousand 144 insects, 12 times less than the previous year.

The results were presented during the annual meeting of representatives of the Binational Program for the Eradication of the Cotton Boll Weevil, which has been in force for almost 20 years in the border region, with the aim of controlling and eradicating this pest.

The meeting was led by SENASICA's Director-in-Chief Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga and the Deputy Administrator of the Plant and Animal Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Osama El-Lissy, those who agreed that the work in 2021 was successful and represented a great advance for the productive sector of both nations.

They affirmed that their governments will continue to allocate the necessary resources for this binational program, which

improves the quality of life of thousands of families north and south of the Río Bravo.

The General Director of Plant Health of SENASICA, Francisco Ramirez y Ramirez, stressed that in 2021, the regional work between producers and health authorities represented one of the greatest advances in recent years, mainly in terms of cultural control.

He said that cotton producers adjusted to the dates of planting, harvesting and cleaning the plots, as well as the work of chemical control and continuous review of traps, in order to reduce the natural conditions that favor pest reproduction and proliferation.

Also present at the meeting were the Director of Phytosanitary Protection of SENASICA, José Manuel Gutiérrez Ruelas; the researcher of the National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (INIFAP), Urbano Nava Camberos, and the coordinator of the Binational Program in Tamaulipas, Carlos Campos Ruelas. On behalf of the U.S. government, APHIS officials Patrick Burson and Edward Herrera, among others, attended.

Mexico is the ninth largest cotton producer in the world, with more than 675 thousand tons per year. Tamaulipas is the fourth largest national producer, after Chihuahua, Baja California and Coahuila.