

# **The Secretariat of Agriculture and the Productive Sector work to Redesign Cattle Identification and Traceability Model.**

This new animal identification mechanism will be carried out animal by animal, through electronic radio frequency devices. Consumers will be able to trace a product from its origin to the point of sale



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The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that it is working with the productive sector on the design and operation of a new cattle identification mechanism, which will contribute to strengthening the sanitary control of cattle, their movement, location, and traceability, as well as to promote the safe trade of live animals, their products, and by-products.

The Secretariat explained that the Computerized Traceability System for Agricultural, Aquaculture, and Fishing Commodities (SITMA) will be implemented during the first months of 2022 and will be operated by the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (Senasica).

With the operation of SITMA, the Secretariat of Agriculture complies with the Agreements published in the Official Federal Gazette, in which it is instructed to have the Computerized System for the Control of Agricultural Goods and to assume the verification, inspection, and surveillance tasks, as well as the application of the Mexican Official Standard NOM-001-SAG/GAN-2015.

To define the characteristics of the new system, Senasica and the General Coordination of Livestock have worked hand-in-hand with the productive sector, headed by the National Confederation of Livestock Organizations (CNOG), and with representatives of the meat fattening and processing industry, such as the Mexican Association of Meat Producers (AMEG) and the National Association of Federal Inspection Type Establishments (ANETIF).

In order continue working under the same scheme, CNOG held its 27th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the National System of Individual Cattle Identification (SINIIGA) - National Animal Identification System (SINIDA) at the Senasica headquarters building, with the participation of Arturo Macosay Córdova, General Livestock Coordinator.

In his speech, the chief director of Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, emphasized that the Mexican Government and the stakeholders in the production chain are united by the legitimate intention to increase sanitary measures, which will enhance the competitiveness of the domestic market and open up new opportunities in foreign markets, mainly in Europe -with the modernization of the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union.

Moreover, Trujillo Arriaga specified that SITMA will make it possible to identify livestock, as is currently done, but with the advantage that it will also be possible to record the zootechnical activities carried out in relation to each animal, such as the diseases it has suffered and the medicines, nutrients, and feed that it has received.

The traceability system, he explained, is aimed at enabling the consumer (importer, trader, or consumer) to know the trajectory of a food product, from its origin to the shelf. Therefore, the system will record from the production unit (birth and fattening),

the processing plant, the distribution center and the retailer, to the point of sale.

The identification of animals will be carried out in an animal-by-animal basis, through unforgeable radio frequency electronic devices, which will allow personnel to verify the information corresponding to the identifier number during mobilization and arrival at the fattening and slaughter units: sex, age, color, health certificates, notices, and certifications registered in SITMA.

The federal official announced that veterinarian and professor Everardo Gonzalez Padilla, who is well-known in the Mexican livestock sector and various international organizations, has joined the SITMA design work to provide advice on the subject.

CNOG President, Oswaldo Cházaro Montalvo, stated that cattle farmers are convinced that the strengthening of sanitary measures is fundamental to improve their quality of life, which is why they show respect and recognition for the new identification and traceability system.

He stressed that the direct dialogue that Senasica has established with the meat production and processing chain reflects the fact that the reengineering process is on the right track, and only small technical aspects remain to be finalized, such as the definition of the service windows for livestock farmers.

Also present at the meeting were the president of the Federation of Colleges and Associations of Zootechnical Veterinarians of Mexico (FedMVZ), José de Jesús Palafox Uribe; the executive president of ANETIF, Hugo Fragoso Sánchez, and the executive director of the Mexican Association of Secretaries of Agricultural Development (AMSDA) and director of AMEG, Enrique López, among others.