

The Ministry of Agriculture of Mexico has implemented measures to prevent African Swine Fever (ASF).

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) has initiated measures to increase the strictness of the imported product inspection process in order to prevent the

African Swine Fever (ASF) to enter Mexico, such as restrictions on imports of risky products, constantly trainings for technicians, and constantly reinforcement of the animal health inspection both commercial products and those brought by tourist. At the same time, an agreement with the producing sector has been established to raise the level of biosecurity within all facilities across the country. At present, the measures in force are as follows:

1. The National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) does not allow the import of meat and meat products, both imported by business entrepreneurs and tourists, from 20 countries that are reported to be the center of the outbreak, including Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, China, Ivory Coast, Estonia, Hungary, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Mali, Moldova, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine and Zambia.

2. The directors of SENASICA has organized meetings with pig farmers to have all parties raised their biosecurity measures in the facilities, applied the best practices in production, and immediately alerted when any abnormality found in their farms.

3. SENASICA has also collaborated with the Mexican Association of Veterinary Specialists in Swine (AMVEC) in implementing the new biosecurity manual for pig farms, which is included in the best practices in livestock production, in order to raise the level of preventive measures in production facilities.

4. Various associations, such as the Organization of Pork Producers of the Country (OPORPA), have observed the work of SENASICA officials who are assigned at the points of entry to the country both in ports and airports.

5. From November 2018 until March 2019, 5 drills for the system and contingency plans for Erysipelas (AUTOSIM II) were conducted and the level of biosecurity and measures for biosecurity in the country have been reinforced.

The purpose of the AUTOSIM II training is to strengthen the capacity of veterinary services in Mexico that allow the technicians, including the systems and contingency plans for the immediate detection and response to the diseases with highly affects to the health of pig farming in the country, stay updated all the time. SENASICA has used this training to train the technicians

continuously so that they can cope with the health contingency in a timely and appropriate manner.

Such trainings have already been conducted in Tecamac in the State of Mexico, Ciudad Obregon in Sonora, El Salto in Jalisco, Victoria de Durango in Durango and Merida in Yucatán, with participation of over 150 technicians from producer and scholar organizations related to pig farming in Mexico.

6. The General Directorate of Phytozoosanitary Inspection of SENASICA has undertaken various measures at the points of entry to the country to prevent the entry of ASF, as follows:

- Reinforce the activities and sanitary measures that regularly apply in the Agricultural Health Inspection Offices (OISA), to prevent the entry of pests or diseases that could be found in the agricultural, livestock, aquaculture and fishing goods that are imported into the country by business entrepreneurs and tourists.
- In response to the international alert about the spread of this disease that affects pigs and not yet found in Mexico, SENASICA has taken various measures to reduce the risk of entry of the disease to the Mexican territory, especially from flights coming from the affected countries to the airports in Tijuana and Mexico City. For this reason, it is compulsory to use the hygiene carpet on international flights and double check by using trained dogs to detect risky agricultural and food products not to be imported into the country.
- In addition, the officials also carried out the sealing of the kitchen and burn food wastes from ships and planes to eliminate the risk of entry of the disease that may occur.

Source: <https://agronoticias.com.mx/2019/04/25/sader-acciona-medidas-para-prevenir-la-peste-porcina-africana-a-mexico/>

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