

Mexico increases its tariff-free chicken import quota



On 24 May 2019, the Ministry of Economy of Mexico announced the increase of tariff-free chicken import quota, from 300,000 tons to 350,000 tons, to avoid supply shortage. This is a result of the decrease of domestic production due to the outbreaks of avian influenza, and the reduction of imports from the United States due to

the Newcastle outbreaks.

Recently, avian influenza with low prevalence has been found in 21 states of Mexico, including in the areas of major manufacturers, affecting the domestic production of chicken. Also, there have been a measure to prohibit the importation of poultry products from many counties of the United States, which is the largest exporter of chicken to Mexico, due to the outbreak of Newcastle disease that also found in Mexico. For this reason, the Ministry of Economy must look for alternative sources of the product by increasing the tariff-free import quota for fresh, refrigerated, and frozen chicken to prevent the shortage of domestic product.

Mexico has been making an effort to increase the diversity of sources of food, in order to reduce the level of dependency on imports of many products from the United States. By increasing the tariff-free chicken import quota, many countries that do not have trade agreements, either bilateral or regional, on tax-free chicken export to Mexico, will be facilitated. The country that receives the most benefit from this measure so far is Brazil, which gained the export value to Mexico of 170 million USD in 2018.

In June 2019, Mexico announced the outbreak of the AH7N3 high pathogenicity avian influenza virus in 15 grounds. Among those grounds, 11 of them are backyard grounds, and 4 spots are chicken farms. All are in areas that have already been obtained permission for vaccination against such disease.

Sources: <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/empresas/Mexico-aumenta-cupo-para-importaciones-de-pollo-20190527-0023.html> and <https://elperiodicodemexico.com/nota.php?id=916427>