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Progress toward eradication of classical swine fever and Aujeszky's disease in Mexico

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The National Eradication Campaign against the *pestivirus* known as Classical Swine Fever (CSF) or Hog Cholera, as well as for Aujeszky's Disease (AD) or Pseudorabies, an *alpha-herpesvirus*, became a high priority in Mexico during the 1990's. With the reinforcement of the Animal Health General Direction, swine producers were convinced that it was critical to make an investment in better pig production to avoid commercial trade restrictions.

The Federal Government approved the Mexican Official Regulations for the CSF Eradication Program in pigs with the NOM-037-ZOO-1995. Actions were based on intense vaccination (Control Phase) using the strain PAV-250 to certify the pig immunity and biological control, diagnostic methods, and restrained animal movements within areas where the flow remains. In the Eradication Phase, vaccination is forbidden and there are no clinical signs in animals. Antibodies are detected by IF and ELISA, and absence of antigen is detected by IF and PCR. After one year of negative results to antibodies and antigen, the state can move into a Free Phase where monthly report surveillance and epidemiological measures are applied. The country was divided into classified regions for strategic purposes, with federal control and inspection at slaughterhouses (TIF). Actually 25 out of 32 states are now free of CSF:



The NOM-007-ZOO-1994, modified in June 1998, regulates AD. Vaccination is applied by using the approved deleted G1 strains within Control and Low Prevalence Phases where the ELISA test is used to detect antibodies. During the Eradication Phase, vaccination is suspended for one year. Certification for Aujeszky free herds is given after an authorized laboratory assures all negative results for antibodies and virus, followed by epidemiological surveillance, as well as to declare a free region (Free Phase) and maintain this status. Aujeszky Disease Eradication is a few steps away from CSF, where, 12 states are currently in a free status, 4 are in the eradication phase, 9 are in the low prevalence phase and 7 are in control phase (July, 2007):



The "Integral Porcine Sanitary Program 2003-2006", has invited all national food chain network sectors to actively participate and enhance the quality of animals and health condition from farm-to-consumption. The goal of achieving 100% of the country free from CSF is about to be fulfilled and swine producers have been the most important part of this effort, they have made a great deal to cooperate with authorities and clean the pig herds, absorbing 80% of the cost themselves, while 20% has derived from the federal government. With this eradication task, the swine industry expects free trade to export animals and meat with the recognition of being free of these pathogens within the Mexican herds.