
Sponsors

University of Minnesota

College of Veterinary Medicine

College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences

Extension Service

Swine Center

Production Assistants

Steven Claas

Lynn Leary

Layout

David Brown

Logo Design

Ruth Cronje, and Jan Swanson;

based on the original design by Dr. Robert Dunlop

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, or sexual orientation.

MEXICAN SWINE PRODUCERS AND RESEACHERS JOIN STRATEGIES IN AN EFFORT TO UNIFY THE NATIONAL PORK FOOD CHAIN

MSc. Norma Sierra-Romero, CENID-Microbiología Animal, INIFAP, México D. F.

MSc. Jorge E. Valencia y López, Confederación de Porcicultores Mexicanos, A.C., México D. F.

Farmers in Mexico have opposed NAFTA because the heavy agriculture subsidies for farmers in the United States have put a great deal of downward pressure on Mexican agricultural prices, forcing many out of business.

Trade between Mexico and the United States also grew at an accelerated rate. However, despite the dynamism of Mexican trade with the United States, Mexican economy has maintained an annual average trade deficit of more than 1,000 million dollars during the operation period of NAFTA, tending to increase and to keep an important agro-alimentary dependency in various headings.

The Confederation of Mexican Swine Producers, are concern in the stability, growth and productivity of the agro-alimentary sector where every participant: farmers, tradesmen, manufacturers, policy makers, and researchers should get prepared for new international economic settings, in order to generate an exportable products and develop new exportable alternatives (such as organic products); generate additional jobs in rural areas, relaxing pressures on the urban labor market and to generate multiplier effects for the Mexican economy as a whole by developing a dynamic domestic market. These issues have integrated the swine producers with researchers specialized in each area to work as a solid and trusting group.

The way to reinforce the Pork Industry and consolidate the farm-to-consumption chain is to unify criteria with authorities, scientists and experts, so we decided to join the knowledge and use this experience to be able to apply the technology generated translated in actions and attend: specific perspectives of the porcine sector unified as a network chain; review the asymmetric aspects within the porcine chain compared with our competing market; also analyze congruency of plans, programs and perspectives between the porcine sector and the government.

There are several problems to be solved where the government perspectives seem to be linked with the productive sector in order to achieve a National benefit within the chain such as:

- Use the trademark called “*México Calidad Suprema*”, to satisfy the sanitary and food safety, along the entire food production chain – from production to consumption- using new methods of risk analysis.
- Assure regulatory measures and policies as a way to increase wealth and improve competitiveness of high quality products within national and international market.
- Achieve Pork Industry competitiveness while availability to guarantee enough national grains and comparable prices to our commercial competitors.
- Achieve equal conditions where the Mexican Pork Industry benefits the same as all countries from moving forward with multilateral trade liberalization.
- A reduction of arbitrary and discriminatory trade rules, in order to elicit sustainability and maintain the Mexican porcine chain within a growing worldwide market in a fair trade.
- Attain the international recognition as free status country from Classical Swine Fever, Aujeszky, and other diseases that could be used as non-tariff barriers.
- Support National programs, campaigns and sanitary measures to eradicate infectious agents that affect the swine herds and/or public health.
- Enhance regulatory strategies to protect the environment, animal welfare, human rights and health.

Food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health through coherent farm-to-table measures will assure effectiveness and science-based risk management, within international frame regulations to be capable of achieving the best quality Mexican swine health and products to offer in a competitive market.