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## Mexico

**Post:** Mexico

### High Path Avian Influenza H7N3 Outbreak in Aguascalientes

**Report Categories:**

Poultry and Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Agriculture in the News

Agriculture in the Economy

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**Report Highlights:**

On January 8, 2013, the National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) informed the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of a newly detected highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) serotype H7N3 outbreak that occurred at two layer farms and the subsequent poultry depopulation in the State of Aguascalientes; approximately 85 kilometers from the June 2012 HPAI outbreak in Jalisco. This issue may continue influencing poultry trade-related issues with the United States.

### General Information:

SENASICA reported that the outbreaks were located in both the San Francisco de los Romo and Aguascalientes City municipalities. These areas are approximately 22 kilometers from one another. The [notice](#) indicates that signs of the event first occurred on January 3, 2013, when a San Francisco de los Romo producer noticed clinical signs of avian influenza and notified appropriate officials. On January 7, 2013, SENASICA officially confirmed through virus isolation that the problem was AH7N3 virus — with a 99 percent similarity in the genetic sequence to the June 2012 outbreak (See MX2040, MX2043, MX2044, MX2053). In addition, during this time SENASICA conducted active surveillance of the area and detected the outbreak in Aguascalientes City. Sanitary authorities proceeded to slaughter 284,755 layers and introduce other quarantine measures (e.g., restricted movement and disinfection).

SENASICA has reported that they have intensified epidemiological efforts and issued 6 million doses of vaccines to farms located in the surrounding perimeter. (NOTE: There are reportedly 7 farms (2 layer and 5 broiler) in the close proximity to the 2 outbreak sites and an additional 15 farms (2 more layer and 13 more broiler) in the surrounding area. END NOTE). Also, SENASICA established 7 verification and inspection points across the state to prevent unauthorized movements of live birds, their products, and by-products.

Mexican egg production is estimated at 2 million metric tons (MT) per year. Aguascalientes represents a small share (8,000 MT or less than one-half of 1 percent) of domestic production whereas neighboring Jalisco accounts for 55 percent of the total production.

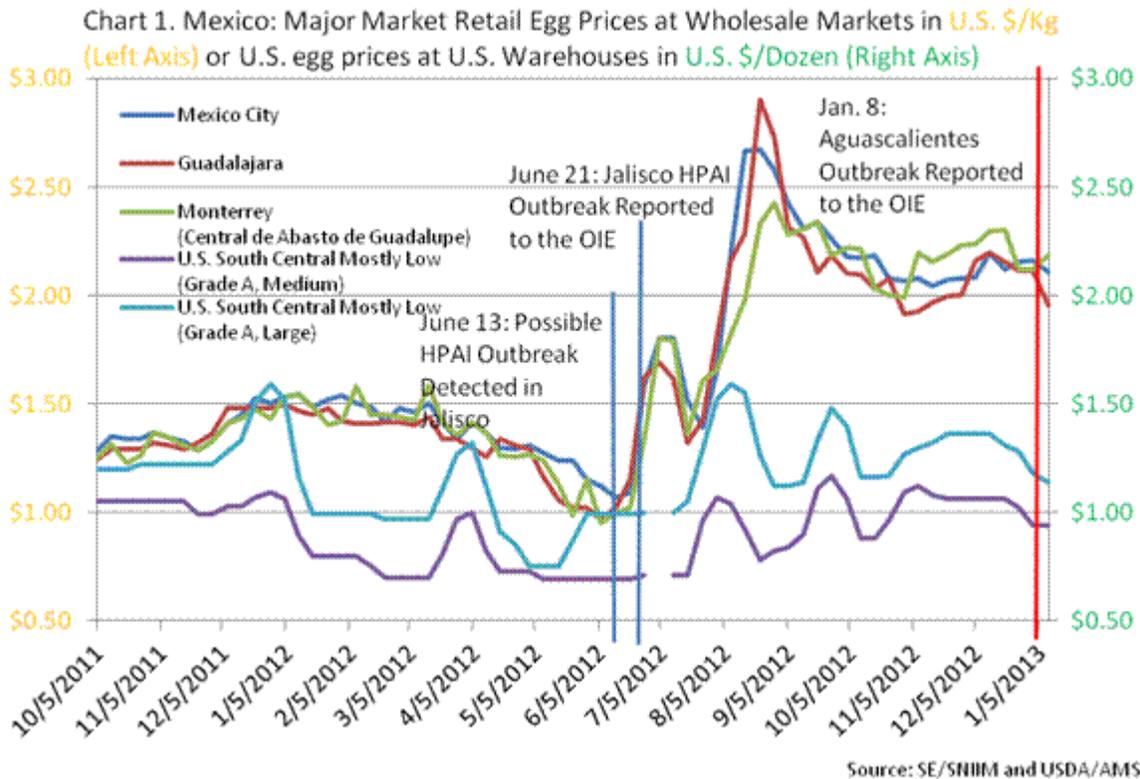


**FAS Comment:**

The Aguascalientes outbreak raises questions as to how the market will react and if there will be any influence on domestic egg and poultry prices as well as to whether the Mexican industry will continue pushing as forcefully for expanded market access to the United States which has been restricted historically due to zoosanitary concerns, specifically exotic Newcastle disease (END).

On August 6, 2012, the Government of Mexico (GOM) through the Secretariat of Economy (SE) announced the final resolution for the antidumping case on the import of U.S. chicken leg quarters (CLQ) and the imposition of compensatory duties for the import of these products. However, in light of the 2012 AI outbreak in the State of Jalisco and increased poultry and egg prices, SE determined that the compensatory duties would not be imposed until the supply and demand situation chain stabilized.

Regarding egg prices, prices seem to be stable (see chart below) and according to the National Service of Market Information (SE/SNIIM) retail prices are around 28 pesos per kilogram for most urban centers. Nevertheless, the Mexican Government is concerned with the potential for volatile price movements. On January 10, 2013, the Mexican Government through the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food (SAGARPA) and SE announced that there are no reasons to increase egg or poultry prices given that Aguascalientes is not a significant producer. Moreover, SE reported that the secretariat would be surveying markets to prevent price speculation or gouging. At this point, it is uncertain whether this outbreak will similarly influence the GOM’s perspectives on whether to enforce the AD final determination.



### Additional Information

**FAS/Mexico Web Site:** We are available at [www.mexico-usda.com](http://www.mexico-usda.com) or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

### Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
<a href="#">MX2087</a>	Poultry and Egg Prices and Trade Snapshot	11/29/2012
<a href="#">MX2069</a>	Eggcellent Industry and Government Cooperation Facilitates Trade	10/19/2012
<a href="#">MX2067</a>	Egg Import Tariffs Eliminated	9/14/2012
<a href="#">MX2059</a>	Mexico Announces Import Quotas for U.S. Eggs	8/17/2012
<a href="#">MX2058</a>	Chicken AD Final Resolution	8/6/2012
<a href="#">MX2053</a>	SENASICA Delivers Vaccines to Control AI Outbreak	8/2/2012
<a href="#">MX2049</a>	Poultry, Meat and Broiler Annual	7/18/2012
<a href="#">MX2046</a>	Economia Opens 221K Metric Ton Egg Quota Due to Market Speculation	7/11/2012
<a href="#">MX2044</a>	Avian Influenza Outbreak Hits More Farms in Jalisco	7/6/2012
<a href="#">MX2043</a>	Emergency Management System Activated to Combat Avian Influenza	7/6/2012
<a href="#">MX2040</a>	High Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak in Jalisco	6/29/2012

**Useful Mexican Web Sites:** Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at [www.sagarpa.gob.mx](http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx), equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at [www.economia.gob.mx](http://www.economia.gob.mx) and equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at [www.salud.gob.mx](http://www.salud.gob.mx). These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.