

Technified producers typically wean offspring in 22 to 25 days and fatten them for 150 days. Weight gain averages 685 grams per day, a total of about 103 kilograms, to reach a final weight of approximately 112 kilograms. The average carcass weight is roughly 78 kilograms, compared to 47 kilograms in the family sector.

Feeds are selected according to the six phases of the productive cycle. They are based on grains and oilseed meals and are generally produced locally by the breeders. Technified units are concentrated in the states of Jalisco, Sonora, Michoacán and Guanajuato.

For the most part, the technified sector is able to meet the official Mexican sanitary inspection standards known as *Tipo Inspección Federal (TIF)*. This standard also satisfies the requirements of the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) and the European Union (EU).

SEMI-TECHNIFIED PRODUCERS

Semi-technified producers take only limited advantage of advanced breeding methods, and tend to be more traditional. Sanitary control is generally deficient and genetic quality is often low.

These producers use commercially-purchased balanced feeds. As a result, they are extremely sensitive to changes in the feed costs. Although labour costs are relatively low, feed makes up about two-thirds of production costs. The feed is usually made from sorghum, as well as corn and oilseed meals of which most is soya. Many semi-technified producers are beginning to import lower-cost animal feed from the United States.

Productivity is lower than in the technified sector. It is estimated that semi-technified producers account for 30 percent of total production. Semi-technified producers are concentrated in the central states of Michoacán, Puebla, Tlaxcala, México, Jalisco and in the Bajío area.

FAMILY UNITS

Family production of pork is still very common in Mexico, accounting for about 30 percent of production and 40 percent of the national stock of pigs. They are especially prevalent along the coasts, in the tropical and sub-tropical areas, and among low-income families. Animals are weaned relatively late, after an average of 46 days, and are then primarily fed with garbage. Some balanced feeds are used prior to slaughter. Sanitary problems are frequent and productivity is quite low. These producers are under pressure to cut costs and improve quality. Many of them are combining their operations to take better advantage of economies of scale.