

fattening and the rest are laying hens and roosters (progenitors and reproducers). Poultry production is concentrated in the states of Jalisco (12%), Mexico (11%), Michoacán (9%), Querétaro (7%), Puebla (7%), Veracruz (6%), Nuevo León (6%) and Sonora (6%). As can be seen, most production is centered around the country's largest cities, in particular Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

Poultry production is the most "technified" livestock sector in Mexico and it is estimated to employ some 33,000 people. There are three types of farms: those raising progenitors, which sell pure breeding animals for genetic improvement. These are imported, since Mexico does not have pure breeds. These farms are very modern, due to the high value of these animals, and include automated feeding, lighting and environmental control equipment, in addition to top quality feeding and sanitary programs. There are at present nine firms in this field, with a capacity for the incubation of 3.4 million eggs per month. Of these firms, four produce 68% of reproducers sold in the Mexican market. The next step are farms which produce reproducers to further produce chicken for feeding. These farms are also modern and use technology similar to that of the progenitor farms, although some simpler operations also exist. The capacity of these farms, of which there are an estimated 86, is of 89 million eggs per month. Finally are the chicken raising firms, estimated at 2,135, which have a capacity from 2,000 to 100,000 head per cycle. Only 4.4% of all firms produce 55% of the country's total chicken production. Often these three functions are integrated into one firm, in particular the reproducers and chicken raising firms. The latter can then further be divided into three types according to their technological sophistication.

The highly automated firms have automatic feeding, lighting and sanitary processes, in addition to the best sanitary and feeding programs. They also have the highest volumes of production, since they raise 50,000 chicken or more. There are only some 260 farms in this category, which supply 70% of the Mexican market. This concentration is mostly due to the increased competitiveness of farms vertically integrated in the production of feed. Poultry feed is based on sorghum (62%) and soya meal (25%), although sesame, safflower, sunflower, fish and meat meal, corn and wheat are also used. Total production of feed by these companies is estimated at 600 thousand tons or 32% of the total production of 1.9 million tons.

The semi-technified sector comprises a variety of firms, with different levels of technical sophistication. Some use modern processes at some levels, while others have adapted obsolete machinery. Sanitary supervision is not always satisfactory. These firms purchase commercial feeds and have no capacity for feed production, thereby significantly increasing their costs, since feeds account for 67% of the total production costs, followed by the cost of the chicken (20%). These farms raise from 2,000 to 50,000 chicken per cycle and are estimated at 1,770. These farms