

MEXICAN PORK PRODUCTION

Mexican pork production is not sufficient to satisfy demand, and many processors import meat from the United States and cut it in Mexico. Total production is 9.5 million head, which is equivalent to more than 800,000 tonnes of meat, plus about 130,000 tonnes of offal. Imports are roughly 230,000 tonnes per year, bringing total consumption to more than 1.1 million tonnes.

HOG PRODUCERS

Mexican hog producers are classified by the *Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR)*, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, according to the level of technology they employ. They are described as technified, semi-technified or *rural o transpatio*, family units.

- **Technified producers** account for about 40 percent of Mexican pork production. They maintain specialized sites and operate under strict controls. Reproduction techniques and genetics play an important role. For the most part, the technified sector is able to meet the official Mexican sanitary inspection standards known as *Tipo Inspección Federal (TIF)*.
- **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 tends to be low. Productivity is lower than in the technified sector. Semi-technified producers account for 30 percent of total production.
- **Family production** of pork is still very common in Mexico, accounting for about 30 percent of production. Sanitary problems

are frequent, but intensive campaigns have been undertaken to eradicate them. The gravest problems are pork cholera, the Aujeszky disease and several types of parasitosis.

Compliance with *TIF* is key to commercially-successful operations. Vertically-integrated companies are in the best position to comply, because they control the entire process from hog production to distribution. Many of them own their own refrigerated trucks and warehouses. For these reasons, pork processing firms are beginning to integrate backwards into hog production.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

In 1993, there were 444 municipal and private pork slaughterhouses. In addition, there were 109 plants complying with Mexico's *Tipo Inspección Federal (TIF)*, sanitary inspection standards. Twenty-five of these, representing 11 companies, are exclusively pork plants. The others are mainly beef and poultry plants, although some slaughter both beef and pork. About 80 percent of all *TIF* plants are owned and operated by the regional livestock producers unions.

PROCESSORS

There are an estimated 150 meat processing companies in Mexico, producing a wide variety of fresh pork cuts and processed pork products. They use both domestic and imported half-carcasses as well as imported carcasses and prime cuts. Foreign multinationals account for about 15 percent of production. The domestic firms benefit from a detailed knowledge of local tastes that is needed to produce many popular value-added cuts.

FOREIGN TRADE

Mexico's pork imports for 1994 have been estimated by the *Comisión Nacional de Porcicultores (CONAPOR)*, National Commission of Pork Producers, at 221,404 tonnes or about 22 percent of the market. According to official government data, imports in 1994 had a value of US \$257 million. Import penetration for 1994 was estimated by *CONAPOR* at about 24 percent by volume.

More than 30 percent of Mexican imports consist of offal. Carcasses and other unprocessed meat make up almost 30 percent and live animals about 8 percent of the total.

Import Share of the Mexican Pork Market

| Year | National production in tonnes | | | Meat and offal | Import share |
|------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|--------------|
| | Meat | Offal | Total | Imports in tonnes | Percentage |
| 1990 | 757,851 | 125,601 | 883,452 | 57,303 | 6.49 |
| 1991 | 811,849 | 134,550 | 946,399 | 173,676 | 18.35 |
| 1992 | 819,782 | 135,865 | 955,647 | 200,820 | 21.01 |
| 1993 | 807,320 | 133,800 | 941,120 | 210,861 | 22.41 |
| 1994 | 795,048 | 131,766 | 926,814 | 221,404 | 23.89 |
| 1995 | 782,962 | 129,763 | 912,725 | 232,474 | 25.47 |
| 1996 | 771,060 | 127,790 | 898,850 | 244,098 | 27.16 |
| 1997 | 759,338 | 125,848 | 885,186 | 258,303 | 29.18 |
| 1998 | 737,795 | 123,935 | 861,730 | 269,118 | 31.22 |
| 1999 | 736,428 | 122,051 | 858,479 | 282,574 | 32.92 |
| 2000 | 755,233 | 120,195 | 875,428 | 296,703 | 33.90 |

Source: *Comisión Nacional de Porcicultores (CONAPOR)*, National Commission of Pork Producers.