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## Mexico

**Post:** Mexico

### Mexico Bans Poultry Products from Polk County

**Report Categories:**

Poultry and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

On April 6, 2011, the Animal Health General Directorate of the Mexican National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) notified USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that importation of productive or reproductive live birds, of uncooked eggs, or of fresh or frozen poultry meat and poultry meat byproducts is prohibited due to an H7N3 low-pathogenic avian influenza outbreak on a turkey farm in Polk County, Missouri. Mexico will not allow the import of products from birds slaughtered on or after March 4, 2011. This restriction will be in force for 60 calendar days.

**General Information:**

On March 30, 2011, APHIS notified the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) of an H7N3 low-pathogenic avian influenza outbreak on a turkey farm in Polk County, Missouri. The detection was made during routine APHIS ante-mortem sampling as established in the National Poultry Improvement Plan – Avian Influenza Clean Program (H5 & H7) provisions.

On April 6, 2011, Mexico’s Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Hugo Fragoso notified APHIS via official memorandum 1678 that since this case involves a serotype of mandatory notification to the OIE, it was determined that the importation of live birds for any “zoo technical” (i.e., productive or reproductive) purpose, uncooked eggs, or fresh or frozen poultry meat and poultry meat byproducts originating in that county was prohibited. This restriction is to be enforced until SENASICA is informed of the closure of the case.

SENASICA’s official communication clearly states that products underway will be allowed to enter Mexico provided that the products come from birds slaughtered prior to March 4, 2011. Moreover, SENASICA states that inspectors at ports of entry will verify and inspect the documentary and physical compliance of the shipments with the requirements indicated in the appropriate Zoosanitary Requirements Sheet (HRZ).

All non-compliant merchandise will be rejected and returned to the country of origin or destroyed. These measures are in force effective April 6, 2011, and will remain in force for 60 calendar days; however, this period may be extended if no information regarding closure of the case is provided in a timely manner.