

**NICARAGUA INITIATES BRUCELLOSIS- AND TUBERCULOSIS-FREE
CERTIFICATION FOR FARMS**

Communication from Nicaragua

The following communication, dated 17 June 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Nicaragua.

1. The Republic of Nicaragua, through the Animal Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry (MAG-FOR), has embarked on a process of brucellosis- and tuberculosis-free certification for farms in various parts of the country, including the municipalities of Nueva Guinea and Paiwas in the Atlántico Sur Autonomous Region (RAAS), El Almendro in the Department of Rio San Juan, Altagracia and Moyagalpa on Isla de Ometepe, Department of Rivas, El Coral and San Pedro de Lóvago in the department of Chontales, and Rio Blanco in Matagalpa.
2. The country is divided into 17 departments. A nationwide sample having shown a prevalence of less than 1 per cent for both diseases, once the stage of declaring farms to be free is complete, certification of tuberculosis- and brucellosis-free areas is feasible.
3. In the course of the certification process, work has been carried out in 191 districts of eight municipalities in the five departments where the process has been implemented. Certification is in progress for 1,741 farms – and an equal number of livestock breeders. Of these, 93 (comprising a population of 12,432 animals) have been certified free both of brucellosis and of tuberculosis.
4. To date, 62,726 serological tests have been conducted for brucellosis, and 55,453 animals have been tuberculin-tested. The figures by animal category are: 55,451 bovine, 6,011 equine, 834 porcine and 430 ovine/caprine.
5. The certification process was devised with support from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to contribute to providing the necessary conditions for the country to meet the health demands of international trade and thus enhance the competitiveness of animal products and by-products, making livestock production more profitable through higher product quality and productivity rates.
6. The activities were managed by the Animal Health Directorate of MAG-FOR with private sector participation.

7. Eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis, in the dairy production regions initially and thereafter throughout the country, will bring benefits both for livestock producers and the export sector with the reduction of losses from direct damage and the opportunity to export animal products and by-products that compliance with the health requirements of international trade will afford.
