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## Mexico

**Post:** Monterrey ATO

### **New Rail Crossing at the Brownsville-Matamoros Port of Entry**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

A new rail border crossing was inaugurated Aug.25 at the Brownsville – Matamoros Port of Entry. The new rail line bypasses urban centers but it does not significantly add to crossing infrastructure for agricultural products. On Aug 10 a unit train of soybeans crossed at the new bridge; it was bound for crushing in Monterrey.

**General Information:**

On August 25, 2015 government officials from the United States and Mexico officially inaugurated the West Rail International Bridge, a bypass to reroute rail traffic away from the city centers of Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas. The rail line on the old Brownsville & Matamoros International Bridge is now closed and all U.S. agricultural exports transported by rail and crossing through the Brownsville-Matamoros port of entry are now crossing through the West Rail International Bridge. It is important to note that verification and inspection procedures by border inspectors from SAGARPA's National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) have not changed. Having said that, it is also important for the reader to take note that the new Kansas City Southern Rail yard on the Mexican side of the border in the municipality of Lucio Blanco has suitable infrastructure and complies with SAGARPA's new regulations for verification and inspection point facilities. There is some enhanced inspection capacity at the new rail crossing. Rail cars transporting agricultural products like butyric fat contained in drums, and grains, seeds and powdered milk contained in sacks will now be able to cross the border through the Brownsville-Matamoros POE for inspection. During the past years these products were not able to be inspected at the old Kansas City rail yard because of the lack of infrastructure. On August 10 the first unit train transporting U.S. agricultural products crossed into Matamoros through this new rail crossing. This unit train contained soybeans destined for crushing at an edible oil company based in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. For additional information or comments U.S. exporters may contact the Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) in Monterrey, Mexico. ATO Monterrey has expert advice for exporters regarding correct documentation procedures, and logistics to successfully export to Mexico. Please feel free to contact us at (52) 81-8047-3300 or at [eduardo.lozano@usda.gov](mailto:eduardo.lozano@usda.gov)