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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Snapshot of the Mexican Ostrich Sector

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Mexican ostrich sector is a very small and specialized animal production sector. For 2011, annual total meat production is forecast at 961 tons; however, the sector remains strong and will continue to focus on supplying hides to the Mexican leather industry. Trade in ostriches and products is non-existent between the United States and Mexico.

General Information:

The Mexican ostrich sector is a very small and specialized animal production sector. As with the United States, the Mexican ostrich sector has contracted over the recent years. Within Mexico, this sector focuses on products for the Mexican tanning industry due to the premium that ostrich hides obtain. The ostrich is an unusual animal because all parts of the animal are consumed or used for commercial purposes.

Production Areas

Ostriches are raised in 21 of the 31 states in Mexico (see figure 1). For 2011, annual total meat production is forecast at 961 tons. During 2010, the ostrich sector contracted, which resulted in formation of 14 cooperatives of producers in order to combat higher production costs. Final 2010 production and total producer numbers have yet to be compiled. In 2009, there were 5,800 producers of ostriches with a total meat production of 846 tons.

Jalisco is the top producing state in Mexico for ostriches and every county of Jalisco has ostrich production. Jalisco is also home to two ostrich slaughtering facilities; the first is located in Tlajomulco and the second in Ahualulco de Mercado. The Ahualulco de Mercado slaughter facility is the larger of the two and claims to slaughter 60 percent of the birds in Jalisco.

Consumption, Imports and Exports

The primary purpose for raising ostriches in Mexico is for hides. The city of Leon, located in the neighboring state of Guanajuato, is Mexico's major tanning center. The leather industry in Leon consists of integrated operations such as hide processing, tanning, re-tanning, finishing, and manufacturing of shoes and other leather goods.

The demand for ostrich meat is very limited. Currently, the key buyers for meat products are hotels and restaurants catering to tourists in tourist spots such as Los Cabos, Puerto Vallarta, Acapulco and Cancun.

At this time, there is no trade in ostrich products between the United States and Mexico.

Figure 1: Mexico: States with Ostrich Production



Key Industry Contact

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FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

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Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX0059	Poultry and Products Annual	09/01/10
MX0064	Livestock and Products Annual	09/17/10

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.