



Agricultura

Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural



COURTESY TRANSLATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mexico City, May 8, 2025

Ms. Brooke Rollins
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
United States of America

Dear Secretary Rollins:

First of all, I want to thank you for the meeting we had on May 6, 2025, at USDA Headquarters in Washington, DC. I especially appreciate the opportunity we had to talk over lunch. I am convinced that good personal relationships are a valuable complement to institutional relationships because they facilitate the communication and dialogue that are key to a fruitful relationship that benefits both countries.

As I said in our meeting, I believe we should follow the example set by President Claudia Sheinbaum and President Donald J. Trump, who, through their frequent telephone conversations, have been able to make progress and find good solutions to extremely complex issues.

I take note of the specific points you mention in your letters of April 30 and May 7, 2025. Indeed, the Mexican government will follow up on these administrative and operational aspects with the commitment to address any obstacles as quickly as possible, within the limits of the law.

As I explained in our meeting in Washington, these actions involve several agencies of my country's government (including the Federal Civil Aviation Agency (AFAC); the Mexican National Customs Agency (ANAM); and the National Institute of Migration (INM)), in addition to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development. Together, they involve several thousand people in their operations in the states where we are working against the New World Screwworm (NWS). For this reason, I cannot guarantee that each of these individuals will always be informed of the agreements between our governments. What I can guarantee is that if any issues arise, they will be addressed immediately upon reaching our attention through the channels we have formalized in previous letters, as well as through the joint working group we agreed upon in Washington, which will meet weekly.



2025
 Año de
**La Mujer
 Indígena**

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I take this opportunity to reiterate the requests and proposals we have presented to representatives of USDA and APHIS on several occasions, and which I mentioned in our meeting:

1. Opening as soon as possible the border crossings for the export of Mexican cattle in Piedras Negras, Coahuila (Eagle Pass, Texas), and Puerto Palomas, Chihuahua (Columbus, New Mexico). The first of these is the most urgent. In compliance with the cattle screwworm protocol for the importation of ruminants from Mexico to the United States, the quarantine facilities in both locations were adapted and approved by APHIS in February 2025, we have not yet been able to begin exporting cattle through these two points.
2. Installation of a facility in Chiapas to produce sterile NWS flies. Having a greater number of sterile flies is an essential tool to halt the spread of this pest, along with outreach, training, surveillance, field inspections, and control of cattle movement.

Currently, approximately 90 million sterile flies are being dispersed weekly in Mexico, originating from an APHIS-operated plant in Panama. In contrast, during the previous NWS eradication campaign, the old plant (COMEXA) produced around 450 million flies per week. The current figure is insufficient to reverse the spread of GBG in Mexico and push it back south.

APHIS experts visited the Sterile Fly Production Complex in Metapa de Dominguez, Chiapas, in December 2024 and January 2025, and indicated that it was a good option to install a sterile NWS fly production facility there. Time is running out and the infestation is advancing, and a decision is needed to determine the course of the GBG control strategy in Mexico.

3. To date, at least 7 billion sterile flies have been dispersed in Central America and 800 million in Mexico, with no improved response observed in areas with aerial releases, even compared to other areas with similar conditions where sterile material is not released. Therefore, we request that the USDA share with SENASICA the data from the analyses conducted on the competitiveness of the sterile fly strain currently spreading in Mexico.

Furthermore, Madam Secretary, I consider our agreement to establish a working group between APHIS and SENASICA to be very important. This group will meet weekly to evaluate the progress of the campaign, ensure that all information is shared in a timely manner, and that all operational, tactical, and administrative aspects are identified, analyzed, and addressed.

I take advantage of this letter to inform you that I spoke with my colleague, Secretary of Energy Luz Elena González, about the possibility of importing ethanol for energy uses in Mexico. She has indicated that she agrees to the formation of a working group that, within a period of no more than 90 days, can provide us with a report on the feasibility of this potential trade.



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Finally, I want to thank you for accepting my invitation to meet with us in Mexico soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julio Antonio Berdegué Sacristán
Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development



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