

Cattle Sweep Programme

Funded under the Accompanying Measure for Sugar (AMS) 2009 and 2010



The project which has received support from the European Union and the Government of Belize marks the very first time the sanitary status of the National cattle herd in relation to Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis is being assessed in Belize. In addition to this assessment the project is also implementing a national livestock farm registry and animal identification system with movement control.

The BNSCPP has the overall objective to promote diversification of Belize's export base through compliance with the World

Organization of Animal Health (OIE) requirements for bovine animal health. Meeting these requirements will also ensure Belize meets the criteria established by Mexico for export of live cattle under the formal agreement between the two countries.

The total project costs of around 11 million Bz are funded 50% by the European Union (EU) and 29% by the Government of Belize (GOB), as well as contributions by the BLPA, the Mexican Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentario (SENASICA) and the International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA).

The First National Sweep was completed on 15 January 2014, the Second National Sweep nearing completion in the Toledo District at the end of November 2014 and the continuation of the Third National Sweep which will follow immediately.

Equally important is the establishment of three functional Movement Control checkpoints in the Blue Creek, Sandhill and Bullet Tree villages safeguarding the integrity of testing already completed.



Combined with an upsurge in global demand and a price rise globally, the advent of the cattle sweep has certainly helped Belizean producers enjoy much healthier prices, 70 - 80 % more than they were getting prior to the sweep starting. The project has also added to the Country's food security and ensured that livestock products are safer for human consumption.

The farmers themselves, through the BLPA, are contributing around 17.5%, or close to 1.5 million Bz dollars, of the project and as such are showing their clear commitment to the project.