

# Backyard pig raising in two municipalities of Mexico City

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A strategy to alleviate poverty

## Summary

In the metropolitan area of the Mexican Valley a total of 30 cooperative pigs producers were studied.

The pig production was considered as complementary activity of the family income and the available area oscillate in the range of 20-60 m<sup>2</sup>. The family distribution per house lives one family with (32%), two (48%) and up three families (19%). The houses are provided with 100% of basic services such as: water, electric power, drainage, and pavement) that are offered by the local authorities. The pig producers mixed the activity with commerce (up 50%) and 10% reported as unemployed. The education level includes primary studies (47%) and secondary school (47%). The pig activity involves the whole family. Most of the swine producers (60%) breed their own animals after weaning for their sale and 40% fatten the pigs.

The number pig range reported were from 1 to 4 (65%), 5 to 10 (29%) and up10 (6%). Most of pig producers reported pure races for example: Landrace, Pietrairie and Yorkshire and just a smaller percentage produce their own hybrid. The animals are feeding with several products like: balanced food (10%), hard tortilla (23%), organic waste from the house/restaurant (20%) and by-products (such as: chicken viscera and blood, 14%). All the animals are vaccinated against the cholera and in less proportion respiratory (62%) and in a lesser quantity digestive (20%) were reported by the producers. The main place of commercialisation was the slaughterhouse (60%), middlemen (27%) and the local market (13%). An important number of pig producers sacrifice the animals in the house and trade the meat cooking it as carnitas and/or prepare it in tacos, which is traditional food consumption. 80% of pig producers reported that the activity contributed with about 10 to 30% of the family income. The space restrictions limit the productivity in the production and this way of production is analyzed as a restrictive factor aspect that is referred to the public health.

### Key words:

city of Mexico, production of pigs, urban agriculture

## Citation of this paper

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Yes