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Government Launches Program To Improve Quality Of Cattle Herd

by Carlos Navarro
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The Mexican government has launched a program designed to improve the quality of the country's cattle herd during 1993. On Jan. 12, Gustavo Reta Petterson, deputy Agriculture secretary for livestock, reported that the federal and state governments have combined with the private ranching sector to infuse 34 million nuevo pesos (US$10.90 million) into the "Ganado Mejor" (Better Cattle) program in nine states. The purpose of the program is to boost the genetic quality of Mexico's herd. The first state to be targeted in 1993 will be Yucatan, where more than 300 breeder cattle will be provided to low-income producers. Separately, Luis Colosio Fernandez, Sonora state livestock industry development secretary, said the state plans to increase supports for local cattle producers this year to eliminate the need for US beef imports, which amounted to 1,000 metric tons during 1992. According to Colosio Fernandez, the major goal of the program in 1993 will be to boost the cattle-fattening industry, which should thrive this year because of rain enhanced pasture quality. (Sources: Notimex, 01/12/93, 01/13/93)

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