

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)034

Head: 49 Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0575

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) In regard to the target of conducting inspections of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong, the Department's target is 35 farms each year. However, according to the figures of the years from 2008 to 2010, the number of farms inspected or to be inspected each year was or will be 50 or more. Will the target be increased to reflect the actual situation?
- (b) Please advise on the actual expenditure in 2008-09, the revised expenditure in 2009-10 and the estimated expenditure in 2010-11 involved in conducting inspections of these farms.
- (c) Please advise on the average time taken for inspecting a farm and how the Department assesses whether the suggestions made by its staff are accepted and implemented after the inspection.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) Farm inspections are conducted on a need basis. The average number of annual farm inspection in 2005 to 2007 was about 36 and that for 2008 and 2009 was around 50. The number planned for 2010 is 50 to provide for maximum operation flexibility. We shall continue to plan farm inspections based on risk assessment and review the target as necessary.
- (b) The expenditure was \$3.7 million (actual) for 2008-09; \$5.8 million (revised) for 2009-10; and is \$6.8 million (estimate) for 2010-11.
- (c) Each farm inspection takes half a day to one whole day to complete. After inspection, a letter will be issued to the relevant Mainland authority to request for follow-up action should there be any non-conformity observed. The Centre for Food Safety will be informed of the progress of the follow up actions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2010