

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

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Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please list by production farm types the number of Mainland production farms exporting food (such as vegetables, fruits, live pigs, live cattle, live chickens, freshwater fish, etc.) to Hong Kong and the number of inspections to these production farms in each of the years from 2010 to 2012 respectively. Please advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2013, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The type and number of registered Mainland farms eligible for exporting foods to Hong Kong from 2010 to 2012 are tabulated as follows –

	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
No. of Registered Farms in 2010	549	3 602	89	298	75	5	162	4 780
No. of Registered Farms in 2011	528	3 602	63	244	34	2	145	4 618
No. of Registered Farms in 2012	521	3 602	63	243	35	2	167	4 633

In 2010 to 2012, a total of 91, 90 and 88 Mainland farms were inspected respectively. The breakdown of farms inspected by type is tabulated as follows –

	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
No. of Inspections in 2010	16	4	41	8	3	0	19	91
No. of Inspections in 2011	20	0	31	12	5	0	22	90
No. of Inspections in 2012	13	0	29	13	2	0	31	88

For 2013, we plan to inspect 85 farms, including 65 food animal farms and 20 vegetable farms/orchards. An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research/fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms outside Hong Kong (including the Mainland and other places). The estimated expenditure for conducting farm inspections in 2012-13 and 2013-14 is \$7.7 million and \$8.6 million respectively.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by an Agricultural Officer. The officer is also tasked with other duties. We do not keep separate breakdown on the resources used for inspection of vegetable farms and orchards.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013