

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

FHB(FE)119

Question Serial No.

1945

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:

Regarding the wholesale of live cattle, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13), the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of cattle by the Government in handling live cattle supplied to Hong Kong (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses, quarantine management, etc), as well as the manpower involved;
- (b) the monthly average price of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13); and
- (c) the expenditure and manpower involved in commissioning a consultant to conduct a survey on the live cattle market, as well as the progress of the survey.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the total number of live cattle admitted to the slaughterhouses for slaughtering is 28 035, 28 718 and 26 032 respectively. The expenditure on live food animal inspection in the slaughterhouses in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is \$24.2 million and \$24.9 million respectively and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$30.1 million involving 85 staff posts in each of these three years. Pigs, cattle and goats are slaughtered in the slaughterhouses. The average expenditure of live animal inspection on each live food animal slaughtered is \$13.7, \$15.6 and \$18.0 in the same period. The cost for handling live cattle cannot be separately identified.
- (b) The average monthly wholesale price per picul of live cattle imported from the Mainland in 2010 to 2012 is given below -

Year	Average monthly wholesale price per picul of live cattle imported from the Mainland (HK\$)	
	Marbled meat cattle	Beef cattle
2010	2,648	2,303
2011	2,871	2,533
2012	3,601	3,291

- (c) To better understand the situation of the live cattle market, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) commissioned a consultant in January 2013 to conduct a market survey covering the prices, quality and costs of fresh beef in Hong Kong and nearby Mainland cities, thereby providing empirical data for informed comparisons as well as an objective basis for the Government to analyse issues related to the market. The survey is in progress and due for completion in April 2013. A sum of \$250,000 has been earmarked by FHB for conducting the survey.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
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Date: 5.4.2013