

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)098****(Question Serial No. 0025)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 14):

Please list by 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 2011 to 2013. Please advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2014, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 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 2011 to 2013 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 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
No. of registered farms in 2013	480	3 602	53	231	32	2	169	4 569

In 2011 to 2013, a total of 90, 88 and 86 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 2011	20	0	31	12	5	0	22	90
No. of Inspections in 2012	13	0	29	13	2	0	31	88
No. of Inspections in 2013	16	0	29	13	7	0	21	86

In 2014, we plan to inspect 85 farms, including 65 food animal and fish farms as well as 20 vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong, including the Mainland and overseas. We do not have a specific estimate on the number of farms in the Mainland to be inspected in 2014.

An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms outside Hong Kong. The revised estimate of expenditure for conducting farm inspections outside Hong Kong in 2013-14 is \$8.6 million, while the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$9.5 million. We do not keep separate breakdown on the resources used for inspection of food animal farms in the Mainland.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a team led 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 in the Mainland.