

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)145****(Question Serial No. 0222)**

- 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 1 Page 248 (if applicable)
- Question (Member Question No. 46):

Regarding the supply of livestock and poultry, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the average, highest and lowest daily number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens imported from the Mainland and supplied locally in each of the past three years (in 2011, 2012 and 2013), with a breakdown by year and source of supply;
- (b) the monthly average price of live pigs and live cattle supplied by the Mainland to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (in 2011, 2012 and 2013); and
- (c) the progress of the study on the opening up of the market of imported live cattle, as well as the scheduled time for publishing the findings of the study.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens imported from the Mainland in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Year	Daily number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens imported from the Mainland								
	Pigs			Cattle			Chickens		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	4 012	6 232	2 031	79	172	18	6 764	10 900	3 700
2012	4 210	5 960	1 513	71	161	12	6 751	9 000	3 400
2013	4 317	5 565	1 942	52	116	8	6 307	9 600	2 300

Information on the number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens supplied from local farms in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Year	Daily number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens supplied from local farms								
	Pigs			Cattle			Chickens		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	255	807	39	N/A	15	N/A	10 299	53 655	200
2012	266	644	31	0	0	0	11 151	62 157	3 900
2013	264	529	24	N/A	3	N/A	10 546	69 956	2 000

N/A – Not applicable

- (b) Information on the average monthly auction or wholesale prices of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland in 2011 to 2013 is given below –

Year	Average monthly auction/wholesale prices per picul of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland		
	Auction Price of Pig (HK\$)	Wholesale Price of Cattle (HK\$)	
		Marbled meat cattle	Beef cattle
2011	1,482	2,871	2,533
2012	1,329	3,601	3,291
2013	1,350	4,497	4,093

- (c) In view of the concerns articulated in the community about the supply and price of fresh beef, we commissioned a consultant to conduct a market survey in 2013. We have also relayed to the Ministry of Commerce the request of the general public on opening up the market of live cattle supply agents. To this end, the Ministry of Commerce convened a research seminar in November 2013 to listen to the views of the industry in Hong Kong and the Mainland on the existing system for the supply of live cattle to Hong Kong, in order to facilitate further studies on whether there is a need to reform the current system. We will continue to maintain contact and communication with the Ministry of Commerce, and inform the public as and when there is further development.