

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)106**

**(Question Serial No. 0013)**

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

Question:

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 2012 to 2014. Please advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2015, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

The type and number of registered Mainland farms eligible for exporting foods to Hong Kong from 2012 to 2014 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 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
No. of registered farms in 2014	459	3 622	36	216	34	1	181	4 549

In 2012 to 2014, a total of 88, 86 and 69 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 2012	13	0	29	13	2	0	31	88
No. of Inspections in 2013	16	0	29	13	7	0	21	86
No. of Inspections in 2014	17	3	29	8	5	0	7	69

In 2015, we plan to inspect 80 farms, including 60 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 2015.

An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong, including the Mainland and overseas. The revised estimate of expenditure for conducting farm inspections outside Hong Kong in 2014-15 is \$9.2 million, and the estimated expenditure in 2015-16 is about \$10.2 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 (including the Mainland and overseas) 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.