

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)166

(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 2013 to 2015. Please also advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2016, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively.

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

Reply:

Information on the types and number of registered Mainland farms eligible for exporting foods to Hong Kong as at 31 December of the past 3 years is given below –

As at 31 December of the year	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
2013	480	3 602	53	231	32	2	169	4 569
2014	459	3 622	36	216	34	1	181	4 549
2015	450	2463	34	217	34	1	174	3 373

Information on the types and number of Mainland farms inspected by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in the past 3 years is given below –

Calendar Year	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
2013	16	0	29	13	7	0	21	86
2014	17	3	29	8	5	0	7	69
2015	13	3	22	14	6	0	9	67

In 2016, we plan to inspect around 70 farms, including 50 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 2016.

An inspection unit in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), 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 2015-16 was \$10 million, and the estimated expenditure in 2016-17 is about \$11.4 million. CFS does not have separate breakdown on the resources used for conducting 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 another team in the FEHD led by an agricultural officer. The officers in the team are also tasked with other duties. CFS does not have separate breakdown on the resources used for conducting inspection of vegetable farms and orchards in the Mainland.

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