

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)119

(Question Serial No. 1411)

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:

With regard to the wholesale of live cattle, please advise on the following:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and the lowest daily wholesale numbers of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the monthly average, the highest and the lowest prices of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of cattle by the Government in handling live cattle (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses and quarantine management), as well as the manpower involved; and
- (d) the process of supplying live cattle to Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live cattle imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar Year	Total number of live cattle imported	Daily number of live cattle imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	18 602	51	110	9
2015	17 911	49	97	8
2016	17 493	48	97	9

- (b) All imported live cattle are sold through the wholesale agent. Information on the wholesale prices of live cattle imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows -

Calendar Year	Wholesale prices per picul of live cattle imported (HK\$)*					
	Marbled Meat Cattle			Beef Cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070
2015	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070
2016	4,690	4,690	4,690	4,070	4,070	4,070

* The wholesale price of live cattle is determined by the wholesale agent. The wholesale prices of marbled meat cattle and beef cattle were last adjusted to HK\$4,690 / picul and HK\$4,070 / picul respectively on 6 May 2013.

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2016-17 is \$38.9 million, involving 89 staff posts. The average expenditure during the year on each live food animal slaughtered is about \$25. The live food animals concerned include pigs, cattle and goats. The cost for handling live cattle cannot be separately identified.
- (d) Live cattle from the Mainland must be supplied by farms registered with the Mainland authority. All imported live cattle enter into Hong Kong by land through the Man Kam To Control Point. Each consignment of imported live cattle must be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to import inspection at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station. Live cattle admitted to slaughterhouse would be sampled for testing for veterinary drug residues before slaughtering and release to the market.

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