

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)131****(Question Serial No. 0022)**

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 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 2015 to 2017. Please also advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2018, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 16)

Reply:

Information on the types and number of registered Mainland farms eligible for exporting foods to Hong Kong in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively is set out below –

Calendar Year	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
2015	450	2 463	34	217	34	1	174	3 373
2016	442	2 978	34	213	36	1	191	3 895
2017	458	2 978	28	173	38	3	150	3 828

Information on the types and number of Mainland farms inspected by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively is set out below –

Calendar Year	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
2015	13	3	22	14	6	0	9	67

2016	9	3	25	19	3	1	5	65
2017	18	1	25	8	4	0	7	63

In 2018, CFS plans to inspect around 55 farms in the Mainland and overseas, including 35 food animal and fish farms as well as 20 vegetable farms and orchards. The actual number of farms inspected each year will depend on needs and circumstances.

An inspection unit in CFS comprising 3 veterinary officers, 8 field officers and 1 fisheries officer is responsible for the inspection of food animal and fish farms outside Hong Kong. The revised estimate of expenditure for conducting inspections of those types of farms outside Hong Kong in 2017-18 was \$11.7 million, and the estimated expenditure in 2018-19 is about \$13.5 million. CFS does not have separate breakdown categorically on the resources used for conducting inspection of those types of farms in the Mainland.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by another team in CFS led by an agricultural officer. The officers in the team are also tasked with other duties. CFS does not have separate breakdown categorically on the resources used for conducting inspection of those types of farms in the Mainland.

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