

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)143****(Question Serial No. 0794)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

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 2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (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 2015-16 to 2017-18); and
- (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.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 37)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
2015	17 911	49	97	8
2016	17 493	48	97	9
2017	17 338	48	88	13

- (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
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
2017	4,578	4,690	4,540	3,958	4,070	3,920

- * 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\$4,540 / picul and HK\$3,920 / picul respectively on 3 April 2017.
- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2017-18 is \$39.5 million, involving 89 staff posts from the Centre for Food Safety. 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.

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