

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)114****(Question Serial No. 0034)**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:

Please set out in tabular form 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 2016 to 2018. Please also advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2019, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)Reply:

Information on the types and numbers of registered Mainland farms eligible for export of food to Hong Kong in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively is set out as follows –

Calendar year	Vegetable farms	Orchards	Poultry farms	Pig farms	Cattle farms	Goat farms	Aquatic food animal farms	Total
2016	442	2 978	34	213	36	1	191	3 895
2017	458	2 978	28	173	38	3	150	3 828
2018	458	3 384	29	154	36	3	122	4 186

Information on the types and numbers of food production farms in the Mainland inspected by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively is set out as follows –

Calendar year	Vegetable farms	Orchards	Poultry farms	Pig farms	Cattle farms	Goat farms	Aquatic food animal farms	Total
2016	9	3	25	19	3	1	5	65

2017	18	1	25	8	4	0	7	63
2018	7	4	16	7	7	0	13	54

In 2019, CFS plans to inspect about 55 farms outside Hong Kong, 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.

Inspections of food animal and fish farms outside Hong Kong are undertaken by an inspection unit in CFS comprising 3 veterinary officers, 8 field officers and 1 fisheries officer. The revised estimate of expenditure for conducting inspections of those types of farms in 2018-19 was \$12.7 million, and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 is \$12.9 million. CFS does not have breakdown on the resources used for conducting inspections of farms by geographical locations.

Inspections of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong are undertaken by another unit in CFS led by an agricultural officer. As this unit is also tasked with other duties, CFS does not have breakdown on the resources specifically used for conducting inspections of those types of farms.

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