

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)284****(Question Serial No. 3556)**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:

- (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 2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (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 2017-18 to 2019-20); 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 (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)Reply:

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

Year	Total number of live cattle imported	Daily number of live cattle imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2017	17 338	48	88	13
2018	17 162	47	99	9
2019	15 295	42	102	12

- (b) Information on the wholesale prices of live cattle imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Wholesale price per picul of live cattle imported (HK\$)					
	Marbled meat cattle			Beef cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2017	4,578	4,690	4,540	3,958	4,070	3,920
2018	4,686	4,740	4,540	4,104	4,170	3,920
2019	4,704	4,900	4,640	4,169	4,470	4,070

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2019-20 was \$47.4 million, involving 92 staff posts from the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In the year, the average expenditure on inspection of each live food animal (including pigs, cattle and goats) slaughtered was about \$48.9. The expenditure for handling live cattle cannot be separately quantified.

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