

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)096

(Question Serial No. 3085)

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to the wholesale of live cattle, please advise this Committee of:

- (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 2020-21 to 2022-23);
- (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 2020-21 to 2022-23); 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.: 51)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the numbers 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
2020	14 626	40	94	11
2021	13 500	37	95	10
2022	11 906	33	77	13

- (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 (\$)					
	Marbled meat cattle			Beef cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2020	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,470	4,470	4,470
2021	5,346	5,710	4,900	4,832	4,970	4,470
2022	5,710	5,710	5,710	4,970	4,970	4,970

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2022-23 was \$45.3 million, involving the expenditure on 95 posts in 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 \$41. The expenditure for handling live cattle cannot be separately quantified.

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