

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)079****(Question Serial No. 3037)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

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 2021-22 to 2023-24);
- (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 2021-22 to 2023-24); and
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of cattle by the Government on 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.: 38)Reply:

- (a) The numbers of live cattle imported in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Total number of live cattle imported | Daily number of live cattle imported | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| | | Average | Highest | Lowest |
| 2021 | 13 500 | 37 | 95 | 10 |
| 2022 | 11 906 | 33 | 77 | 13 |
| 2023 | 10 968 | 30 | 69 | 9 |

- (b) The wholesale prices of live cattle imported in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Wholesale price per picul of live cattle imported (\$) | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|
| | Marbled meat cattle | | | Beef cattle | | |
| | Average | Highest | Lowest | Average | Highest | Lowest |
| 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 |
| 2023 | 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 2023-24 was \$46.2 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 \$40. The manpower and expenditure for handling live cattle cannot be separately quantified.

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