

The Explanation of Japanese Sire Bloodlines:

Brief explanation for the traits/characteristics of some of the famous lines will be given.

1.1 Bloodline of Bull (Hyogo-line)

More than 90% of bulls of Hyogo-line belong to Nakadoi-line, the ancestor of which was Tajiri-go. Bulls which have Yasumi-doi as their father, grandfather or great-grandfather with a bloodline of Tafuku-doi or/and Tayasu-doi are the most prominent of all. While some bulls of Kikuyasu-doi line and Kikuteru-doi line with a bloodline of Kikumi-doi or/and Kikunori-doi are still popular, fewer of them become crowned with success by showing inconsistent traits in weight gain and meat quality as its coefficient of inbreeding becomes higher. Contrasting to this, it is noticeable that Shigekanenami line bulls, having their famous Shigeshigenami traits, which became successful outside of Hyogo-prefecture, have been producing great progenies thanks to the efforts made by each prefecture. Hereafter, brief explanation for the traits/characteristics of some of the famous lines will be given.

1.1.1 Tajiri line (Nakadoi line)

1. Yasumi-doi line (originated in 1971)

Yasumi-doi line is basically classified into two different types: one with wide shoulders and a large rib eye area, as represented by Yasutani-doi, Tadafuku and Yasumikane, and the other with narrower shoulders, but excellent in meat colour and texture, as represented by Monjiro, Dai 2 Yasutsuru-doi and Yasuyuki-doi. The former type tends to get matured with good daily gains, but it lacks the flavour in meat. On the other hand, the latter tends to be not economical with less weight gain, but tends to produce meat richer in flavour. Also, the former are suitable for group feeding with their strong nature, while the latter tend to be more sensitive and more difficult to feed in the group.

2. Yasutani-doi line (originated in 1976)

The characteristics of Yasutani-doi line are often the opposite of those traditional Hyogo-line cattle, including ugly face (especially with a wide forehead), and blackness and roughness of coat. (page 172) Amongst the progeny, Yasufuku is the top bull in Yasutani-doi line in terms of both weight gain and meat quality. There are another two types in Yasutani line. One is those which have better weight gain, such as Osho from Yamagata (prefecture) and Tanishige from Jigyodan (an organization), and the other is those which produce higher quality meat, such as Kikutani from Iwate (prefecture) and Tanihide from Jigyodan. However, it is not deniable that there is a lack of consistency overall. Characteristics common in these two types include earlier maturing and a decline of production of quality meat at later years.

3. Yasufuku line (originated in 1980)

The characteristics of Yasufuku line include its exceptionally thick shoulders, large loin size, good marbling in the round, and high yield for Hyogo-line. However, because of their good weight gain and early maturing, meat of Yasufuku-line cattle tends to lack its flavour for Hyogo-line, and this will be an issue to be improved in the future. Male progeny of Yasufuku are mainly classified into two types: one is those which tend to have different coloured coats or suffer fat necrosis despite their ability to

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produce good quality meat such as Yasufuku 165/9, and Ryuun from Gifu prefecture. Cattle of the other type tend to be more strongly influenced by the mother side/maternal line, in spite of their ability to produce healthy and robust progeny, such as Yasuei and Takaei. Since the former has a tendency of a short life, fuller attentions need to be paid to male progeny of Yasufuku.

4. Kikuteru-doi line (originated in 1973)

Characteristics of Kikuteru-doi line include a good meat colour, and their cows are good at nursing with good milking ability. On the other hand, cattle of Kikuteru-doi-line have some weak points, such as a tendency to have smaller weight gains and a disposition of nervousness with a bad temper. As a result, there are limited numbers of bulls that succeeded. Those include Terunaga-doi or Nakazutsumi. Unless the tendency of showing an inconsistency in weight gain is stabilized by using Yasutani-doi or Shigekane-nami in the maternal line, you might end up producing many uneconomical cattle.

5. Kikuyasu-doi line (originated in 1977)

Kikuyasu line is the one which shows some of the most typical features of Hyogo line, such as its beautiful coat and face. However, the performance of the progeny has varied, and only a few bulls have been recognized as successful so far. Those are Kikuyasu from Jigyodan and Maruyu from Aomori prefecture. Yukiguni has recently finished all tests, and it started to be watched with keen interest. (DG 0.97, BMS 3.1)

1.1.2 Kuma-nami line

6. Shigekane-nami line (originated in 1957)

A representative of Kuma-nami line, Shigekane-nami, was influenced by Kinta or Kadoyoshi in its mother side/maternal line, and was a great bull in terms of weight gain and balanced body proportions, especially for a Hyogo-line bull in those days. The male progeny are mainly divided into two types. One is those which have wide shoulders and excellent weight gain, such as Fukumasa and Ootsha 6. The other is those which have thinner shoulders with a gentle top-line, such as Shigeshige-nami and Wajin.

7. Shigeshige-nami line (originated in 1972)

Bulls of Shigeshige-nami line have the most consistency in meat quality. Despite Shigeshige-nami's features such as thin shoulders and a lack of tension in the rump, his consistency in meat quality is worthy of mention. Even outside of Miyagi prefecture, breeding by using Shigeshige-nami has been more frequently conducted.

Current Situation of Hyogo-line

It seems in Hyogo prefecture no bull capable as Yasumi-doi or Yasutani-doi has been created since its last production of Terunaga-doi in 1986. Fukudai-doi and Tsuruhikari-doi, which had a good result of tests, died young. It seems (for the author, at least) that so long as the traditional closed breeding is continued, bulls produced in a private breeding scheme, such as Yasuhira from Miyazaki, Shigekatsu from Miyagi, or Hidahakusei from Gifu, can be more capable. More than one Yasufuku or Shigeshige-nami must exist!

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1.2 Bloodline of Bull (Okayama/Tottori line)

Bulls in Itozakura line and Kedaka line, which have been improved mainly in their weight gain, are famous bulls born in Chugoku region. As the number of their breeding becomes declined, their improvement becomes stagnant. Nowadays more breeding of these lines is conducted in Kyushu and Hokkaido.

1.2.1 Fujiyoshi line (Okayama prefecture)

1. Dai 7 Itozakura (originated in 1970)

(Shared with Shimane prefecture) Dai 7 Itozakura, which is the typical bull that gets matured and fattened early, is popular and used everywhere in Japan. Its characteristics include a good weight gain, gentle nature, being suitable for group feeding, rather high milking ability with a tendency of being prolific. Because of these characteristics, cows in Dai 7 Itozakura line have a good reputation. There are mainly three types in this line.

- **Kitaguni 7/8 and Itohana type:** This type of cattle tends to be a little short in height, and their weight gain is not great for/as Ito line. However, its consistency in meat quality is excellent, and the thickness of shoulders and fat quality are often good as well. Its only weak point might be its low conception rate.
- **Itoharunami and Itofuji (Okayama) type:** While this type of cattle get matured rather early and fattened well, it has a tendency to suffer vitamin deficiency and not suitable to pen barn feeding. Other weak points include its unbalanced body proportion and thick bones.
- **Kagefuji and Itonami type:** Although this type of cattle tends to have thin shoulders and a long body with a gentle top line, they are good in meat quality. Therefore, if its weight gain and shoulder width are improved by breeding, it will have a great potential. They also have a tendency not to develop fat. However, as cows they are fertile and tend to have safe delivery. Accordingly, they have high utility value.

2. Itofuku line (originated in 1983)

(Shared with Oita prefecture) Itofuku, the most famous bull from Kyushu, was born from the dam of Chiyo, which is Koryu line, one of the best lines in Eiko line in Tottori, sired by Dai 7 Itozakura. With agreed weight gain from Dai 7 Itozakura and robust health from Chiyo, Itofuku is a good bull with a trait of larger rib eye area and well balanced shoulder size. His progeny have been successfully produced recently.

1.2.2 Eiko line (Tottori prefecture)

1. Kedaka line (originated in 1959)

- **Harumi line (Dai 2 Kedaka line)**

Although there are many famous bulls from Kedaka line, Harumi, which played an important role especially in Shimane prefecture, and his progeny Kensei are renowned all over Japan. The cows of this line are excellent for improvement of progeny, and they are especially contributing to the improvement of cows in Hokkaido and Okinawa.

- **Dai 20 Hirashige line (originated in 1974)**

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Dai 20 Hirashige, which played an important role mainly in Kagoshima prefecture, is the best bull amongst of all late Kedaka's progeny. He also produced many good progeny that contribute cattle improvement in Kyushu region and Tohoku region. The cattle of this line tend to be strong with a good weight gain, and suitable for the use as breeding cows. On the other hand, they tend to have smaller rib eye area, and their body proportion is often not well balanced. Toukou line and Takami line are also producing good progeny, and especially in Iwate prefecture and Miyazaki prefecture those bulls are regarded as inevitable.

As cattle of both Itozakura line and Kedaka line are economical, they are ideal cattle in reducing costs in Wagyu production. However, they have numerous weak points as well. Therefore, it is important for breeders as well as fattening farmers to breed them with those which are well balanced cattle in its weight gain and meat quality, such as Hirashigekatsu or Fukuzakura. Efforts from all interested parties will be most expected.

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