

Kikutsuru:

Known for her economic contribution to all three branches of the industry; breeding, fattening and male progeny, Kikutsuru is called the ‘the Hyogo cow’. Her progeny Tanifukudoï, which holds the top as a current breeding bull is representative of her offspring.

1.1 Background

Tanifukudoï’s high level of ability comes not only from his sire Yasutanidoï but also from his famous dam, Kikutsuru. She was born on the 12th of April, 1967 on the property of Mr. Saburo Doi in Mikata town, Hyogo prefecture. She had a high level of Tajiri line inbreeding, with an inbreeding coefficient of 18.3. The following year at the Muraoka town calf sales she become the property of Mr. Kanesuke (or Kinsuke) Nagase. From 1969 to 1985, excluding 1971, she gave birth to 16 calves, creating a record for both longevity and fecundity. She continually produced stock, which become famous during that time. Her 7th calf Kikutsuru 5, 10th calf Dai 2 Yasutsurudoï, 11th calf Kikutsuru 7, 12th calf Kikutsuru 8, 13th calf Kikutsuru 10, 15th calf Kikuyasu (shared with Kyoto prefecture) and Tanifukudoï her 16th calf born late in her life, all become famous Wagyu, representative of Japan.

In lines where breeding bulls mature early there are many obvious cases of them losing the ability to produce in their later years. However, in the case of the Kikumidoï line, represented by such bulls as Kikuterudoï and Kikuyasudoï, there is a strong tendency toward late maturation. There are bulls whose breeding assessments improve with age (Kikuyasudoï etc.). Nor is it unusual for the last calf produced by a bull to become famous, as is the case with Kikutsuru and Mitsufuku. Kikutsuru died peacefully in the autumn two years after the birth of Tanifukudoï. Unlike breed bulls, even though she was famous as being representative of breeding cows in Japan, there is no bronze statue to mark her achievements and only the photographs taken by Mr. Yoshio Matsumura remain as part of her valuable research data. Of the cattle from Kikutsuru’s blood line, more than 100 bulls are currently in use throughout Japan, with Tanifukudoï’s offspring building the core of Japan’s Wagyu.

1.2 Characteristics

Strong Points: marbling, meat colour, fine meat texture, dignity, hide and coat, flavour, bone flavour, fecundity (conception rate)

Weak Points: weight increase, fat necrosis, milk quantity, shoulder width, etc.

The main characteristics of cattle in the Kikutsuru line are the stable meat quality and graceful build typical of Tanba cattle. Weight gain is diverse but in the final result there are a large number of cattle which marble. From that point of view not only in the Wagyu field, but also in the F1 field, stock such as Kikuyasy (livestock breeding centre), Kikufukutsuru, Fukutsuru as descendants of Kikutsuru, currently lead the field as the main active stock. However the higher the inbred ratio of Kikutsuru cattle is with Kikumidoï, the more the cattle show a tendency toward late maturation. Any extreme shortening of the fattening period can lead to a drop in meat quality and care should be taken.

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1.3 Main Progeny

1.3.1 Tanifukudoï

Born March 8th 1985. Sire; Yasutanidoï, Dam; Kikutsuru

Tanifukudoï was Kikutsuru's last calf (16th birth). From his sire Yasutanidoï he has early maturation, weight gain, and a large rib eye area, while from his dam Kikutsuru he has good meat quality ability (meat colour and marbling). He has inherited these qualities in good balance, the reason he is now the super star of Hyogo prefecture. In Hyogo prefecture's recent figures for breeding bulls, apart from fat thickness in the top line, he was ranked A (In the original it says "rank A", but there is no reference chart. It is reasonable to assume A means 1st place.) in all areas. In particular his BMS of 1.562 topped that of Teruosadoï (1.527) to take first place.

1.3.2 Kikutsuru 5

(Hyogo prefecture) Born March 25th, 1976 at Mr. Mitsukichi Nagase's, Muraoka town, Hyogo prefecture. Sire Yasumidoï, dam Kikutsuru. 15th born. Retired in 1997.

<Representative progeny>

- **Kikuyasu** (Sire Kikuyasudoï, Maebashi Livestock breeding centre, 9th birth)
- **Fukutsuru** (Sire Kikuterudoï, 8th birth. This Fukutsuru (female) is the dam of Fukuttsuru (male) who is owned by the livestock breeding centre.) Owned and used by the livestock breeding centre, both Kikuyasu and Fukutsuru (male) have positions at the centre of breeding on F1 farms. The dam's line is Kikutusuru 5 and although there tends to be less increase in daily gain, there is a trend toward stability in both meat quality and temperament.

1.3.3 Kikutsuru 7

(Hyogo prefecture) Born February 18th, 1980, produced by Muraoka town, Hyogo prefecture. Sire Yasumigoï, dam Kikutsuru. Inbreeding coefficient 21.8. 13 births and in current use.

<Representative progeny>

- **Kikufukutsuru** (Sire Tanifukudoï, in use at the Hokkaido Livestock breeding centre. 7th birth)
- **Moritsuru** (Sire Tamoridoï, 3rd birth. Grandmother of Kitafukuteru at the Hokkaido Livestock breeding center).

For a cow of the Kikutsuru line, Kikutsuru 7's stock is conspicuous for their rather weak constitutions. While their meat quality ability is high, many die young. Special attention needs to be given to the care of the stock.

1.3.4 Kikutsuru 8

(Hyogo prefecture) Born January 28th 1981, produced by Muraoka town, Hyogo prefecture. 15 births and in current use.

<Representative progeny>

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- **Teruhikaridoi** (Sire Kikuterudo, 2nd birth, in use in Hyogo prefecture)
- **Kitatanifuku** (Sire Tanifukudo, 12th birth, in use at the Hokkaido livestock breeding center)
- **Yasutsuru** (Sire Yasutanido, 3rd birth, dam of Terugasu in Miyazaki prefecture and Chuji in Hokkaido prefecture.)

1.3.5 Dai 2 Yasutsurudo

(Hyogo prefecture) Born February 18th, 1979, Sire Yasumido, dam Kikutsuru, produced by Mr. Kanetsuke Nagase, Muraoka town, Hyogo prefecture, and died in 1995.

Dai 2 Yasutsurudo was the first breeding bull of Kikutsuru to push the line of Kikutsuru to fame. Representative of longevity, even now his remaining straws are at the forefront and are in current use. While meat quality is slightly in the lead, weakness in daily gain is a weak point. Progeny show the same trend.

<Representative progeny>

- **Tsurumarudo** (male)
- **Teruhikarido** (male) (Hyogo)
- **Teruhikari** (male) (Nagasaki)
- **Miyabi** (male) (Livestock breeding center)
- **Tsuruyuki** (male) (Miyazaki)
- **Fukutsurudo** (male) (Oita)
- **Yukitsuru** (male) (Yamaguchi)
- **Tsurumi** (male) (Hokkaido)

1.4 Points to Note in Breeding

- Apart from Tanifukudo, who was an exception, the Kikutsuru line shows a weakness in daily gain, while there are many stocks whose meat quality and dignity are excellent. Not only for F1 farms, but also for areas where there has been work put into improving daily gain, this line is the best suited for use for the improvement of meat quality.
- While on the one hand there are many bulls in the Kikutsuru line who are both fertile and long-lived, due to the fact that they are stock with a high inbred coefficient, cases of fat necrosis and weak constitutions can be seen here and there. The objective when breeding is to choose stock from strong, healthy lines and work on strengthening the constitution of the line.

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