

# Member experience on **Importing** Country Sanitary Requirements and Risk Management [Japan]

1 – 3 July 2025

Chiba, Japan

# Agenda

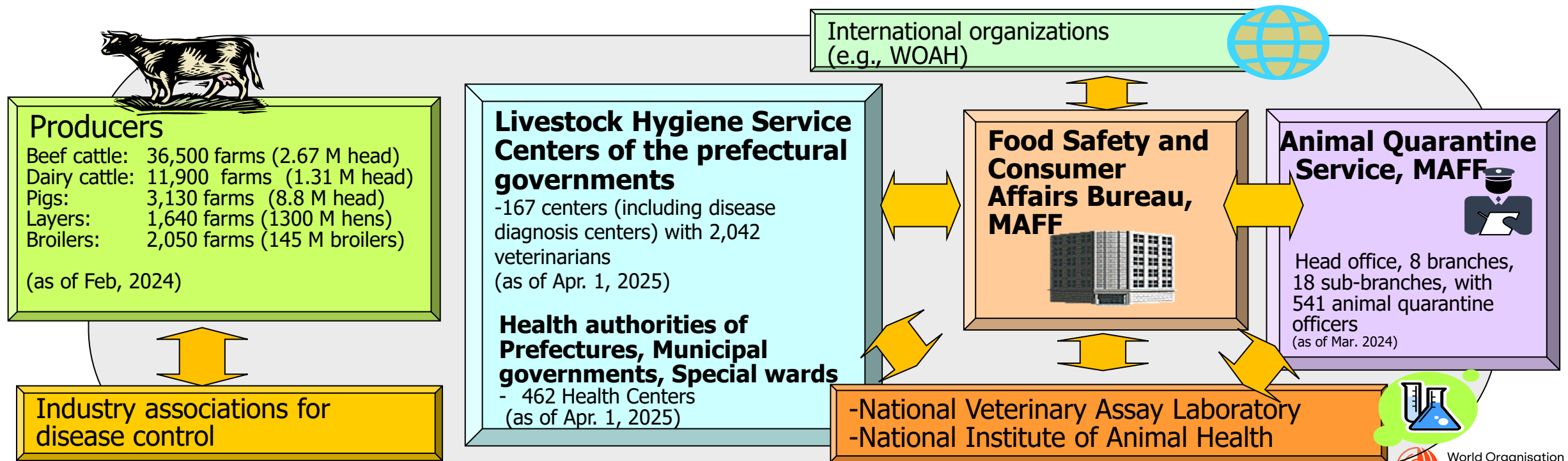
1. Organizational Structure Overview
2. Import Quarantine of Livestock and Livestock Products
3. Key Challenges



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

## Animal Health System in Japan - Key Players

- (1) The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) provides basic policy and guidance on animal disease control measures in cooperation with prefectural governments, the National Institute of Animal Health and other relevant organizations. The Animal Quarantine Service of MAFF conducts import/export quarantine.
- (2) Prefectural governments establish local veterinary service centers ("Livestock Hygiene Service Centers") as the front-line organizations to implement animal disease control measures. MAFF supports the activities of Livestock Hygiene Service Centers and organizes training for their veterinary staff.
- (3) National and local livestock industry associations for animal disease control (e.g., Livestock and Livestock Products Hygiene Guidance Associations) encourage producers to take voluntary actions (e.g., vaccinations, disinfection).



# Animal Quarantine Service

## 1. Objectives and acts

Preventing introduction of animal infectious diseases from overseas

- (1) Animal diseases:  
The Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control
- (2) Zoonotic diseases:  
The Rabies Prevention Act and the Infectious Diseases Act
- (3) Aquatic animal diseases:  
The Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources

## 2. Systems

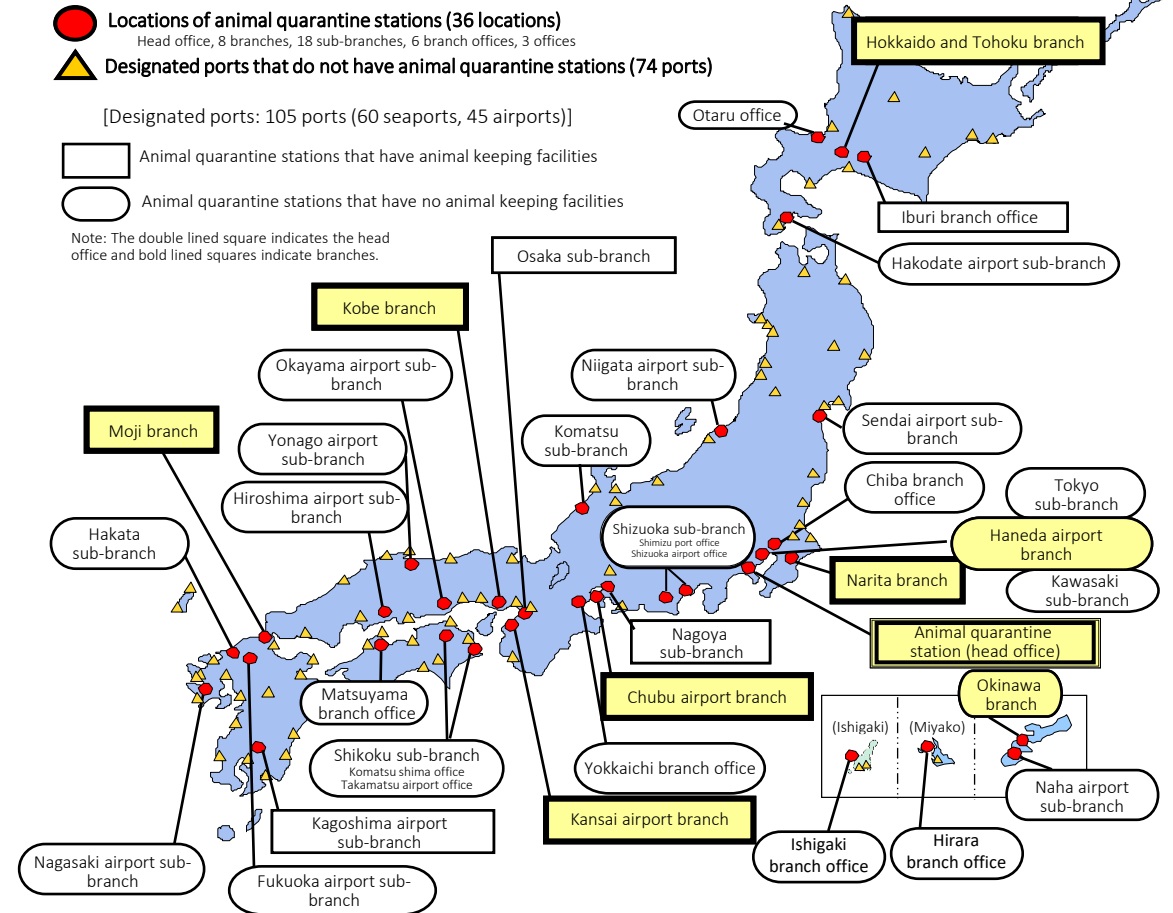
- (1) The Animal Health Division of MAFF collects information, determines import bans and suspensions, develops animal health requirements for importation, plans and conducts audits of facilities in exporting countries.
- (2) Animal quarantine stations (the Yokohama head office, 8 branches and 18 sub-branches nationwide) conduct inspections on animals/livestock products to be exported/imported at ports and airports designated based on the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control.

[Changes in the number of animal quarantine officers and the number of stations]

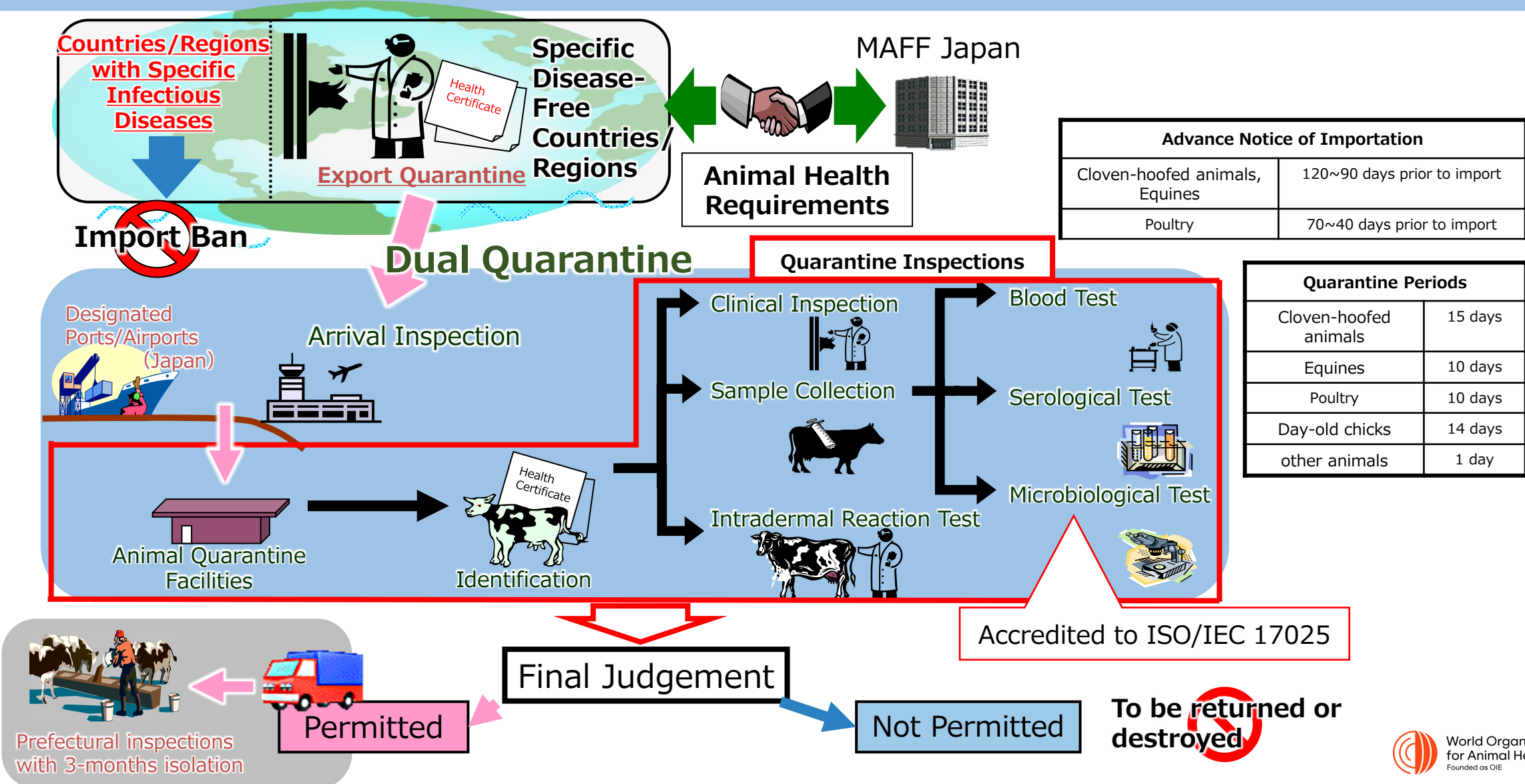
| FY                                   | 2011 | 2015 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of animal quarantine officers | 372  | 402  | 491  | 508  | 526  | 541  | 541  |
| Number of stations                   | 24   | 25   | 27   | 27   | 27   | 27   | 27   |

Note: The number of officers is the number at the end of each fiscal year (March).

## [Locations of Animal Quarantine Stations and Designated Ports]



# Import Procedures for Livestock





# Import Quarantine Inspections for Livestock



1. Arrival Inspection



2. Transport to  
Animal Quarantine Facilities



3. Documentary Check



4. Clinical Inspection



5. Sample Collection



6. Laboratory Testing

Ensure reliability

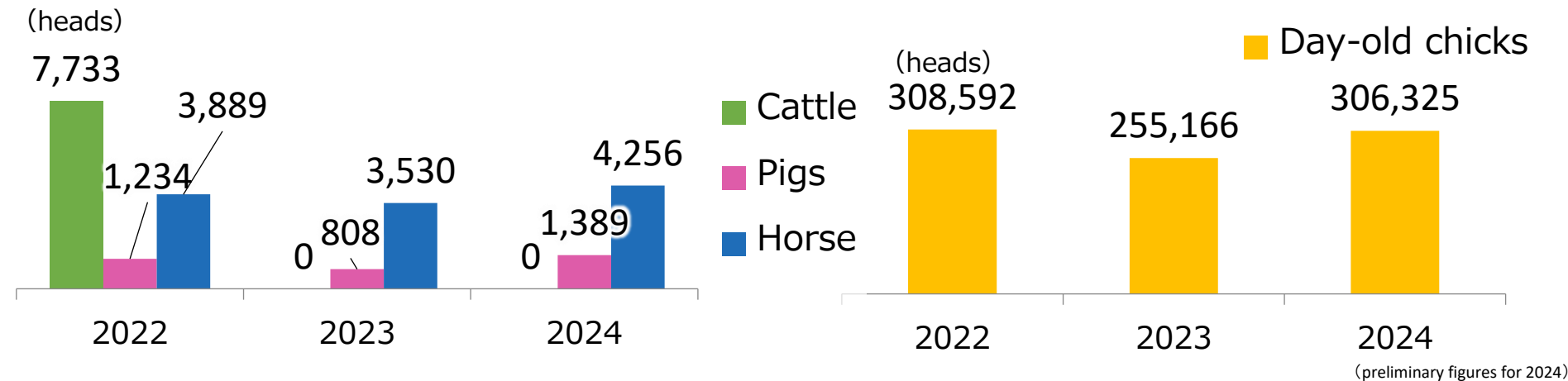
7. Reshipment or  
Destruction



8. Release

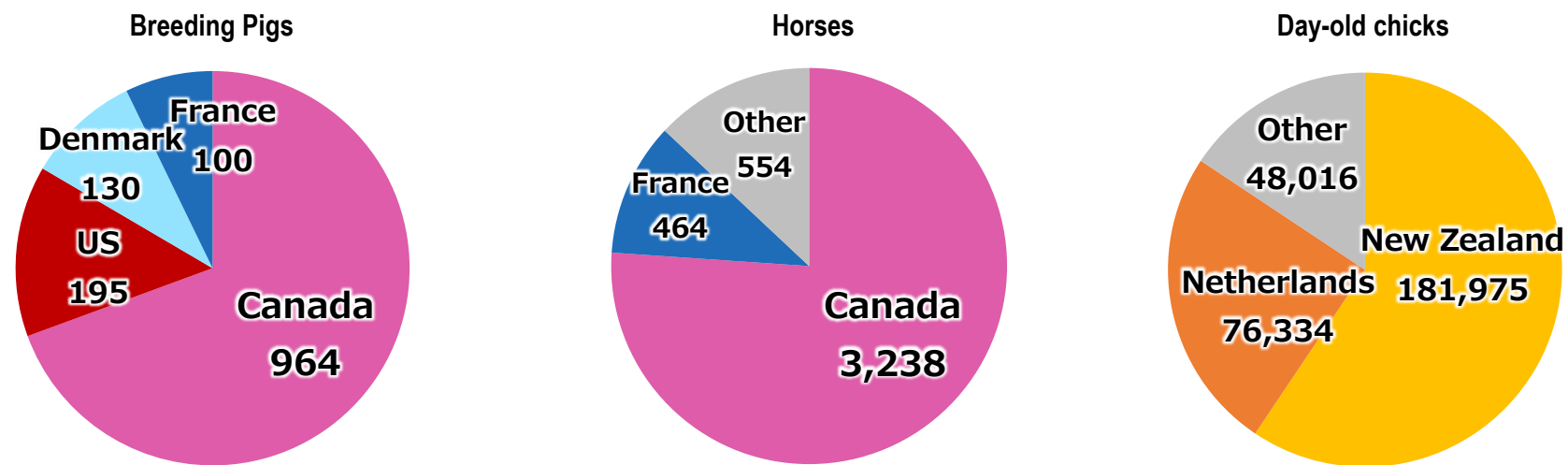
Not  
Permitted  
Permitted

# Number of Imported Livestock

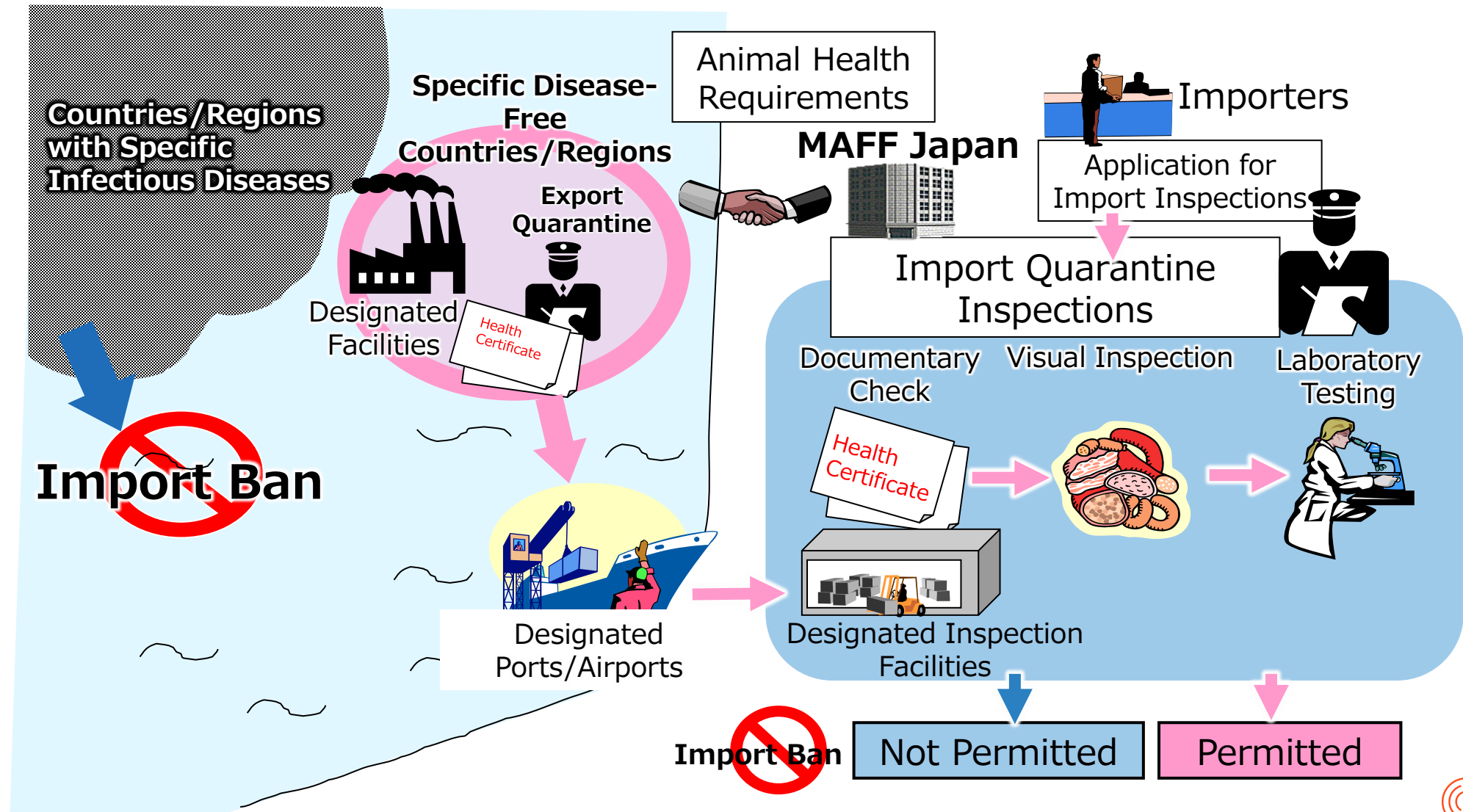


## Countries of Origin and Purpose of Import (2024)

(preliminary figures)



# Import Procedures for Livestock Products (meat, sausages, etc.)





# Import Quarantine Inspections of Livestock Products



1. Arriving at designated ports/airports



2. Designated inspection facilities



3. Documentary Check



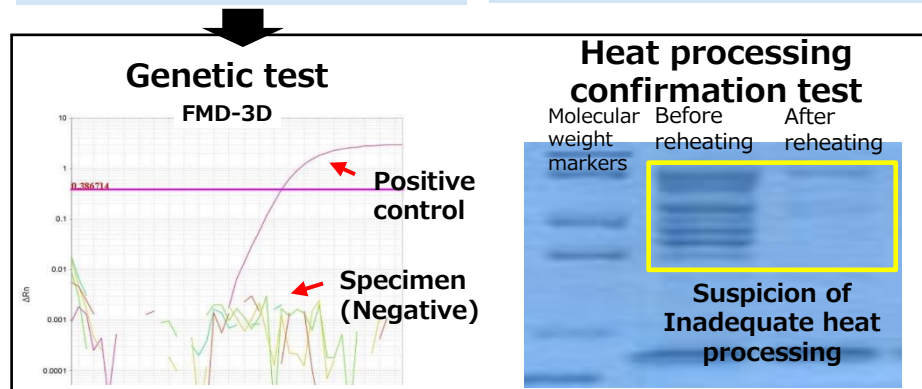
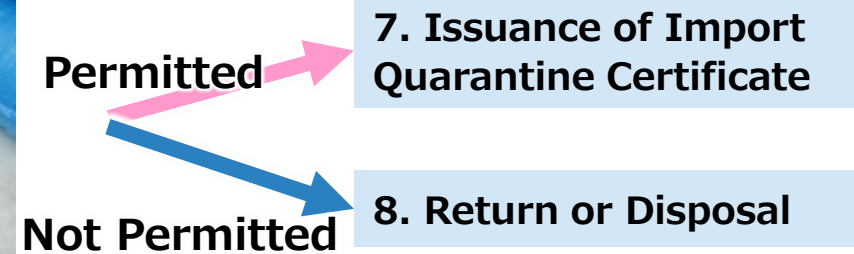
4. Visual Inspections



5. Laboratory Testing



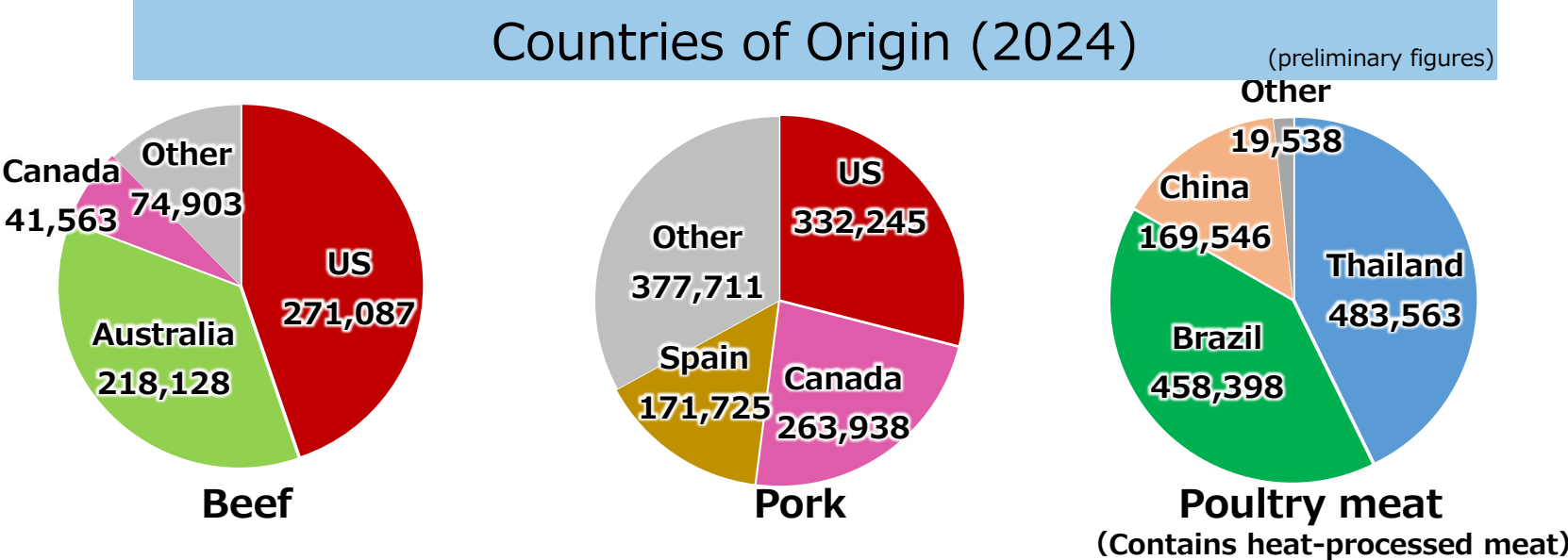
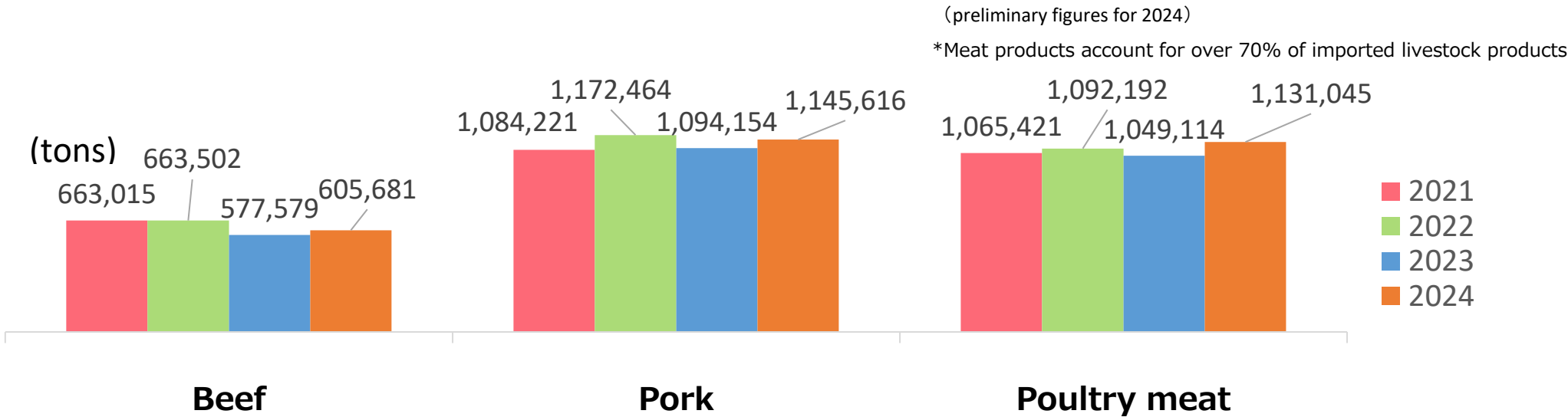
6. Disinfection



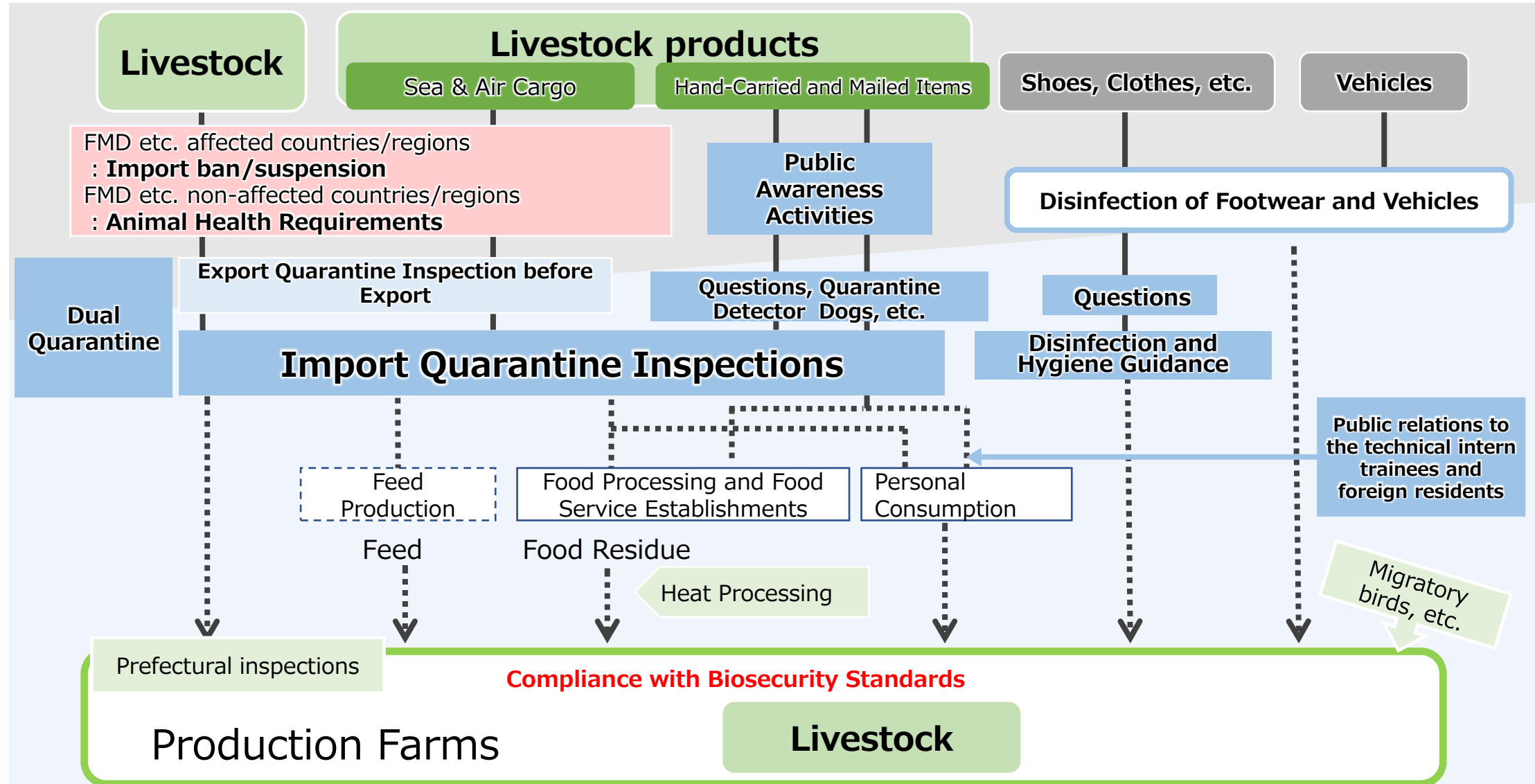
## Designated Quarantine Items

- (1) Eggs
- (2) Bones, meat, fat, blood, skins, feathers, pelage, horns, hooves, tendons and organs
- (3) Bone meal, meat meal, blood meal, hide powder, feather powder, hoof and horn powder, organ powder
- (4) Raw milk, milk products, sperm, fertilized eggs, unfertilized eggs, feces, urine
- (5) Hams, sausages, bacon
- (6) Straw and forage for feeding

# Number of Imported Livestock Products - Meat products



## Main Routes of Introduction and Measures for Animal Infectious Diseases

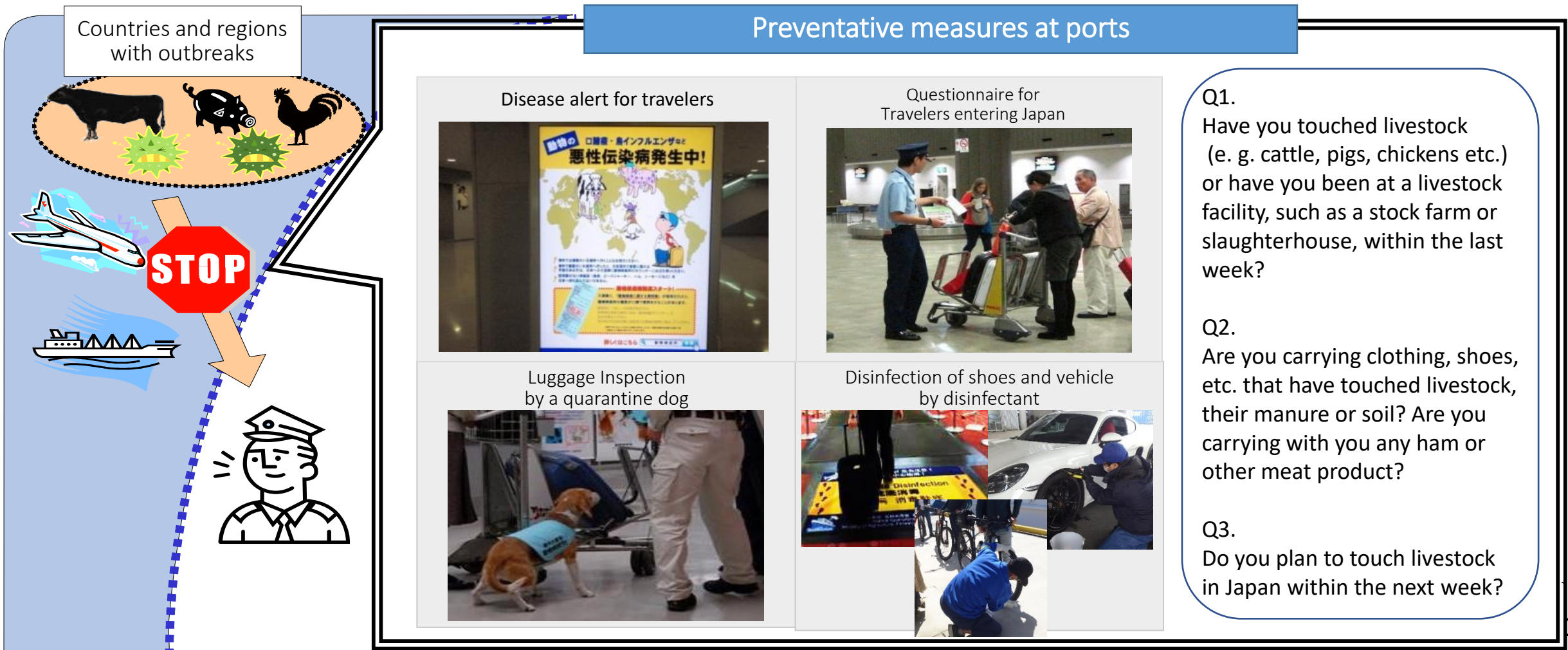


### 3. Key Challenges

Regional workshop on Animal Movement and Border Control for Asia and the Pacific 2025

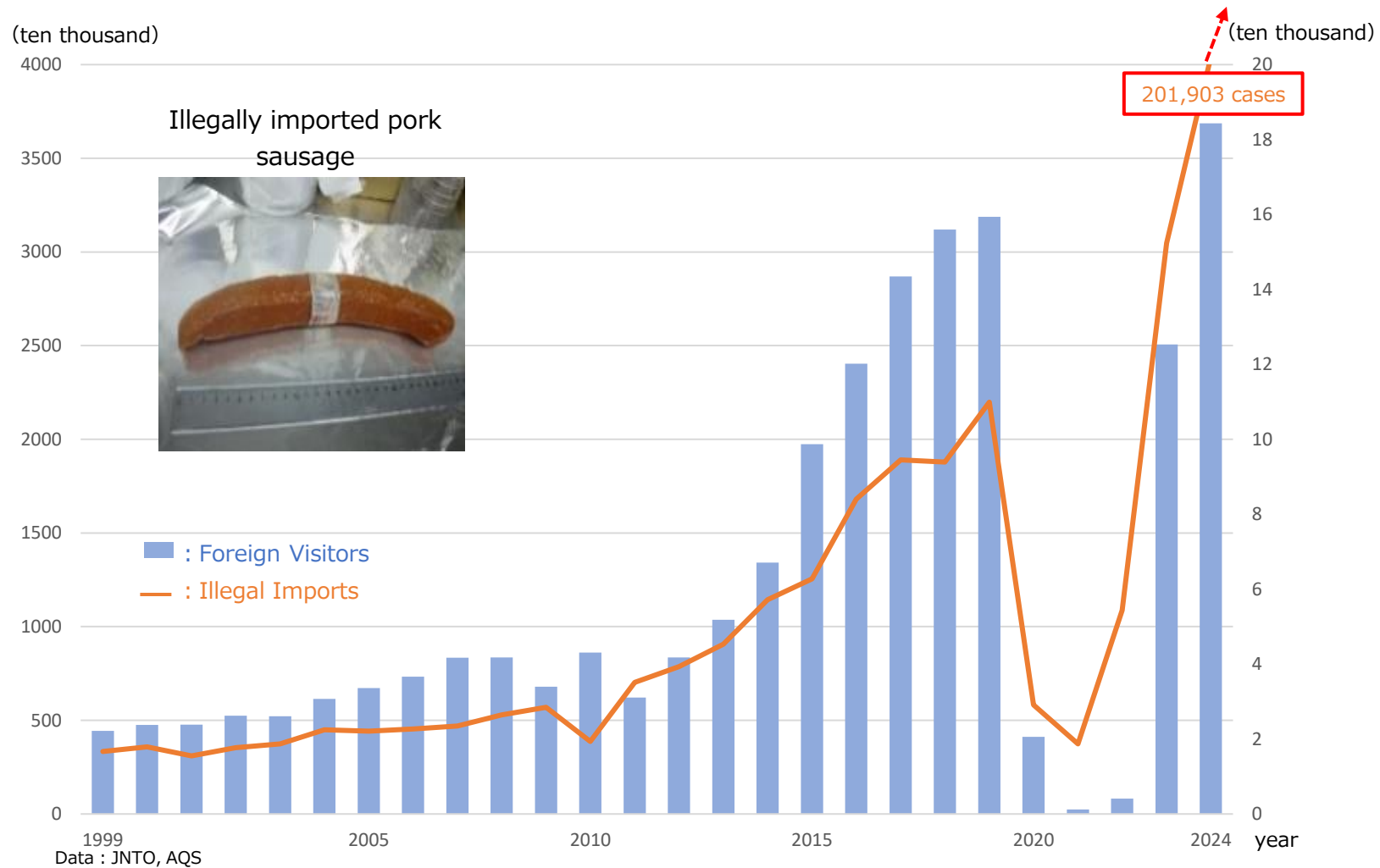
## Prevention of Transboundary Animal Diseases at Borders

- Awareness raising and border quarantine activities are conducted to prevent entry of transboundary animal disease by international travelers.
- Amendment of the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control enabled more counter-measures including interviews of the travelers, inspection and disinfection of luggage, destruction of illegal livestock products at entry points from July 1, 2020.





# The Number of Foreign Visitors and Illegal Imports



## Isolation of Livestock Disease Viruses from Illegally Imported Livestock Products

Viruses causing infectious diseases in livestock, such as African swine fever (ASF) virus, have been isolated from livestock products that were illegally imported into Japan.

### Livestock disease viruses isolated from illegally imported livestock products

Monitoring target: beef, pork, poultry meat

| Country of Origin | Virus             | Inspection date(year) | Viral strain (number of strain)                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Country A         | Avian influenza   | 2015                  | H9N2 ( 3 str.) , H1N2 ( 1 str.) , H5N6 ( 1 str.) , H5N1 ( 1 str.) |
|                   |                   | 2016                  | H5N6 ( 1 str.) 、 H7N9 ( 1 str.) , H9N2 ( 1 str.)                  |
|                   |                   | 2017                  | H7N9 ( 2 str.)  |
|                   |                   | 2018                  | H7N3 ( 1 str.) , H5N6 ( 2 str.)                                   |
|                   | ASF               | 2019                  | 2str.   |
| Country B         | Avian influenza   | 2015                  | H9N2 ( 1 str.)  |
|                   |                   | 2018                  | H5N1 ( 1 str.) , H6N1 ( 1 str.)                                   |
| Country C         | Newcastle disease | 2015                  | 1 str.  |
|                   | ASF               | 2020                  | 2 str.  |
| Country D         | Newcastle disease | 2016                  | 1 str.  |
|                   | Avian influenza   | 2016                  | H9N2 ( 2 str.)  |
|                   |                   | 2018                  | H5N2 ( 1 str.) , H9N2 ( 1 str.)                                   |
|                   |                   | 2019                  | H9N2 ( 1 str.)  |
| Country E         | Newcastle disease | 2020                  | 1 str.  |

- **Infectious ASF virus** was isolated from livestock products brought by travelers from overseas (**4** cases).
- **ASF viral DNA** was isolated from livestock products from overseas (**273** cases as of March 31, 2025)



Handmade pork sausage  
(at Chubu Airport )



Pork sausage  
(at Chubu Airport )



Pork sausage  
(at New Chitose Airport)



Handmade dumpling  
(at Haneda Airport)



Pork sausage  
(at Haneda Airport )



Pork sausage  
(at Chubu Airport )



Pork dumpling  
(at Narita Airport)



Pork sausage  
(at Kansai International Airport )



# Overview of Arrests Related to Illegal Imports

Since 2019, in collaboration with CIQ authorities and the Police, there have been 7 arrest cases resulting from luggage inspections and 2 from postal inspections.

## Arrest cases through luggage inspections

| Arrested Persons          | Date of import | Airport | Items   | Date of arrest                |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 foreigner               | 13 Jun 2019    | Haneda  | Duck eggs (about 25 kg)<br>cloven-hoofed animal meat(about 10 kg) | 21 Jul 2019                   |
| 2 Japanese<br>1 foreigner | 17 May 2019    | Fukuoka | Sausages, etc. (91.1kg)   | 6 Aug 2019<br>August 27, 2023 |
| 1 foreigner               | 3 Sep 2019     | Haneda  | Sausage (1.0kg)   | 3 Sep 2019                    |
| 3 foreigners              | 17 Jun 2019    | Kansai  | Pork sausage, meat products(pork) (5.25kg)                        | 15 Oct 2019                   |
|                           | 6 Aug 2019     | Kansai  | Dog meat (17.6kg)   |                               |
|                           | 15 Aug 2019    | Kansai  | Beef (2.0kg)  |                               |
| 1 foreigner               | 25 Nov 2019    | Narita  | Sausage (10.45kg)   | 21 Jan 2020                   |
| 1 foreigner               | 14 Nov 2019    | Chubu   | blood cake(cloven-hoofed animal and duck) (50 kg in total)        | 6 Mar 2020                    |
| 1 foreigner               | 23 Jun 2023    | Haneda  | cloven-hoofed animal meat(approx. 1.25 kg)                        | February 12, 2024             |



## Arrest cases through postal inspections

| Arrested Persons | Date of import | Items                           | Date of arrest             |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 foreigners     | May ~Jun 2021  | Sausages, etc. (approx. 395kg)  | February 28, March 1, 2022 |
| 1 foreigner      | Oct ~Nov 2022  | Sausages, etc. (approx. 11.5kg) | January 25, 2023           |



### 3. Key Challenges

Regional workshop on Animal Movement and Border Control for Asia and the Pacific 2025

## Illegal Imports of Livestock Products Found in Ethnic Grocery Stores

- To investigate the potential sale of illegally imported livestock products, a total of 66 products were purchased from 42 ethnic grocery stores across Japan.
- Suspected illegally imported products were found at 9 stores - 12 items in total, 9 of which were from Vietnam.
- ASF virus DNA (non-infectious) was detected in 2 of the items.
- Serious risk of African Swine Fever virus being brought into Japan.

Products suspected of illegal importation from prohibited countries based on their packaging



Products tested positive for ASF virus DNA  
(No infectious ASF virus was found)



# Thank you

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