

Member experience on
Implementing Border inspection and Animal quarantine
**Border Inspection and Animal Quarantine: Existing capacity, operation,
gaps, challenges and solution**
[Japan]

1 – 3 July 2025

Chiba, Japan

Agenda

1. Organizational Structure Overview

2. Operations

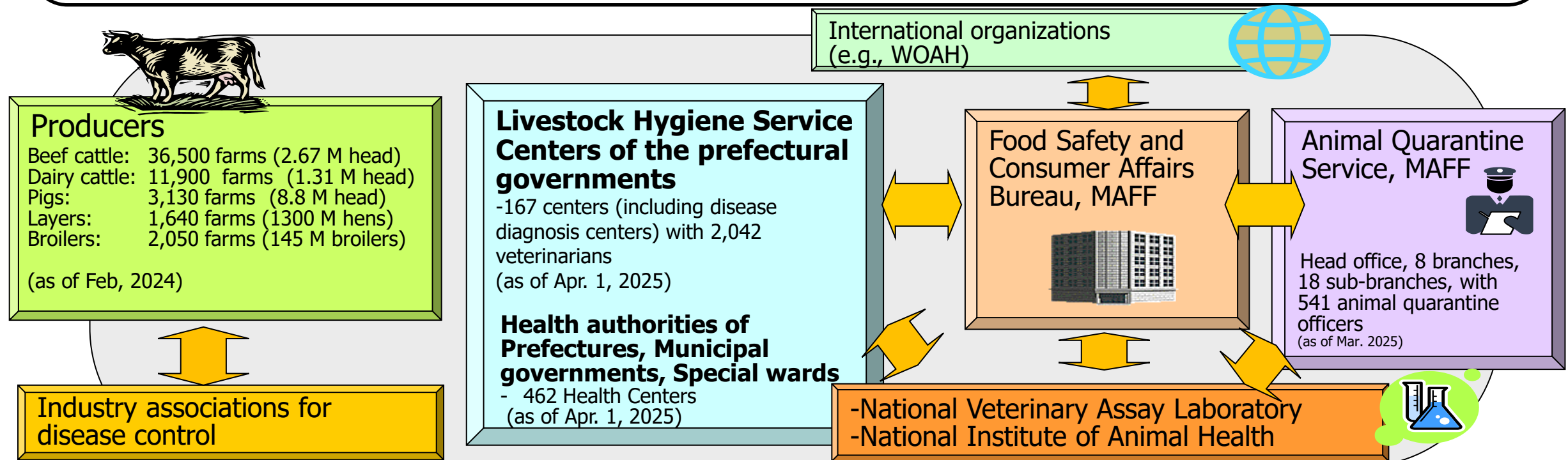
3. Key Challenges



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).

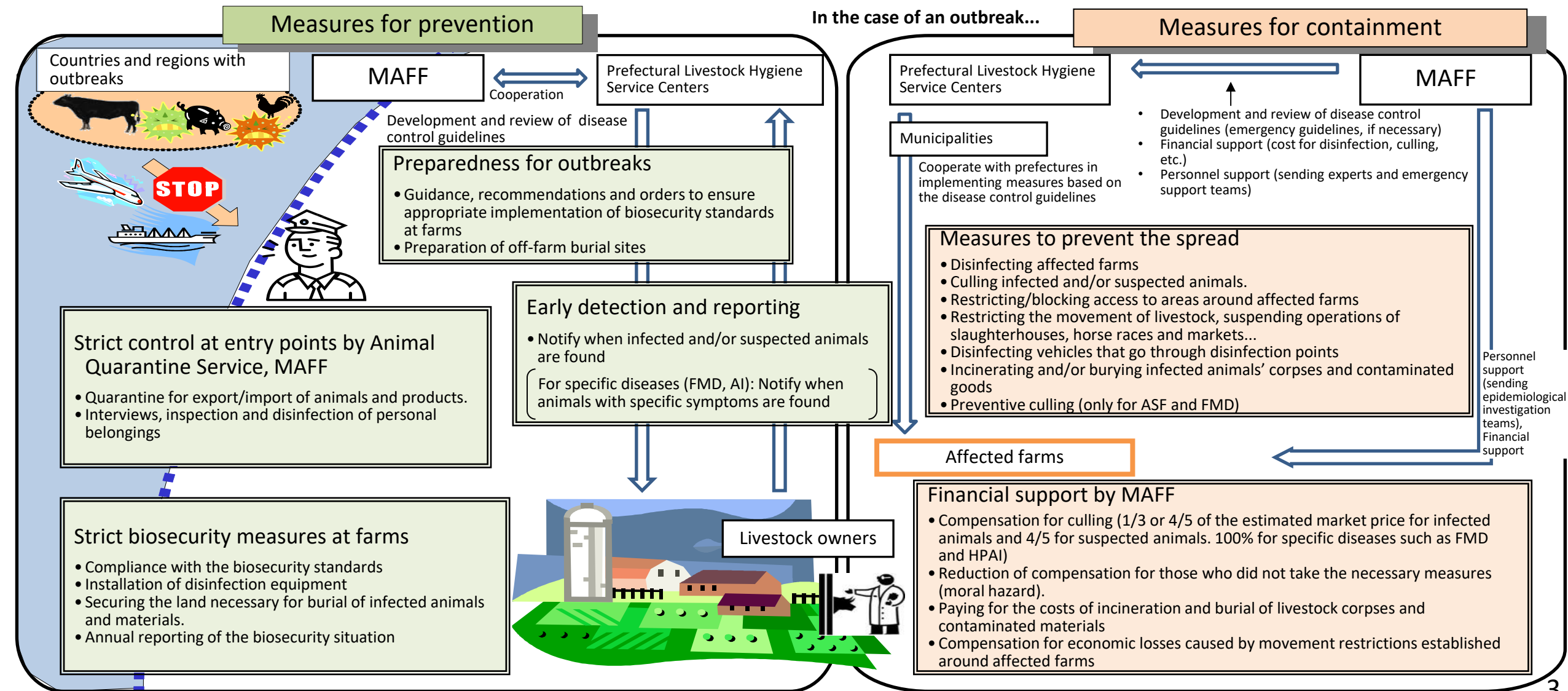


Outline of Veterinary Services - Legislative framework -

<p>Animal Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control ● Livestock Hygiene Service Center Act <p>Aquatic Animal Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Law to Ensure Sustainable Aquaculture Production ● Fisheries Resources Protection Law <p>Safety of Veterinary Medicines and Animal Feed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices ● Act concerning Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feeds <p>Veterinary Affairs and Traceability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Veterinary License Act ● Veterinary Practice Act ● Act for Special Measures concerning the Management and Relay of Information for Individual Identification of Cattle 	MAFF
<p>Zoonoses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases (Infectious Disease Act) ● Rabies Prevention Act 	MHLW and MAFF
<p>Food Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Sanitation Act ● Slaughter Act ● Poultry Slaughtering Business Control and Poultry Meat Inspection Act 	MHLW
<p>Animal Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act on Welfare and Management of Animals 	MoE

Outline of the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control

Objective: to promote livestock industries through prevention and containment of domestic animal infectious diseases



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

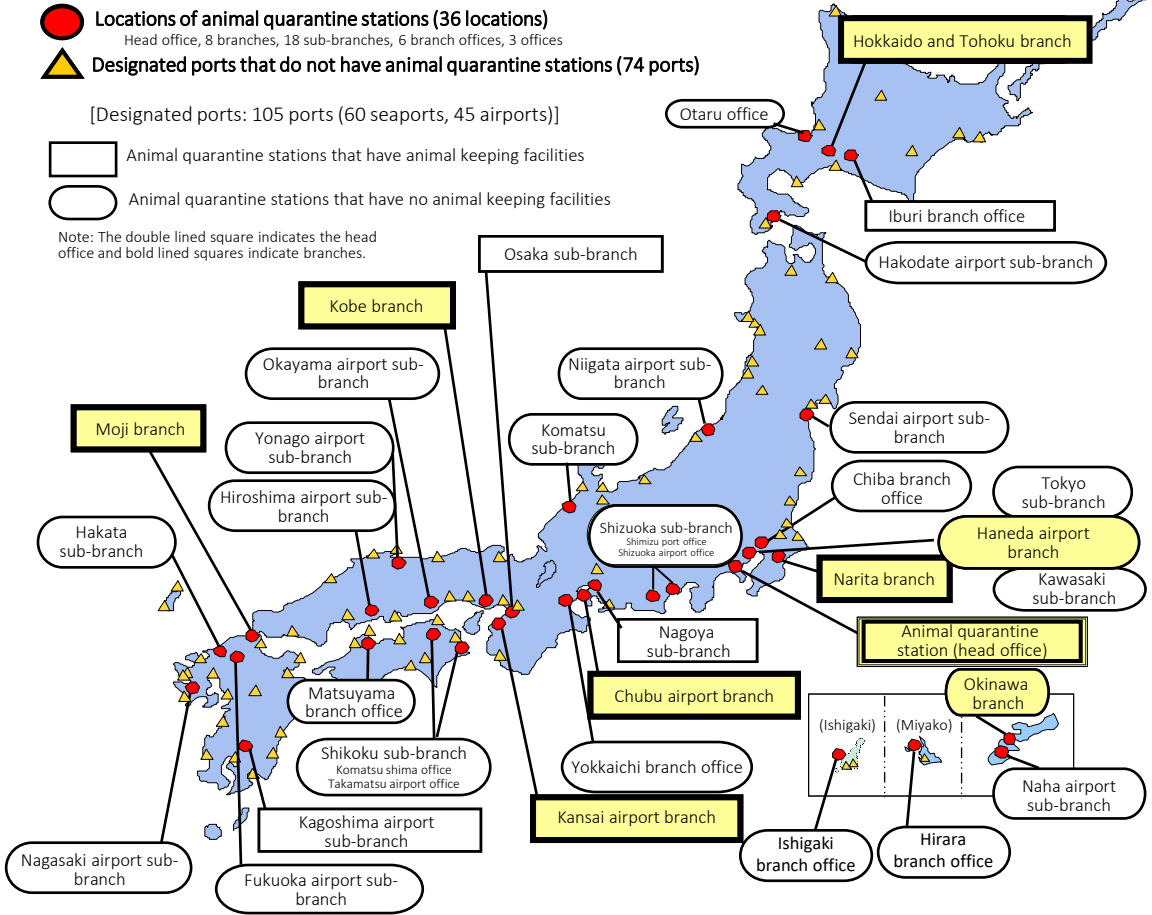
- (1) The Animal Health Division of MAFF collects information, determines import bans and suspensions, develops animal health requirements for importation, plans and conducts audits of facilities in exporting countries.
- (2) Animal quarantine stations (the Yokohama head office, 8 branches and 18 sub-branches 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

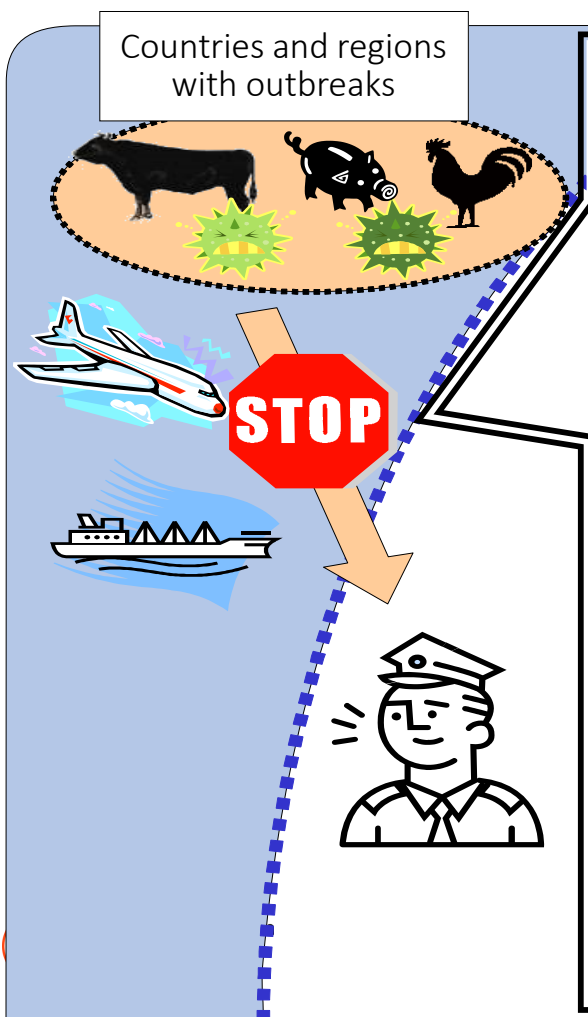
Note: The number of officers is the number at the end of each fiscal year (March).

[Locations of Animal Quarantine Stations and Designated Ports]



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.



Preventative measures at ports

Disease alert for travelers



Questionnaire for Travelers entering Japan



Luggage Inspection by a quarantine dog



Disinfection of shoes and vehicle by disinfectants



Q1.
Have you touched livestock (e. g. cattle, pigs, chickens etc.) or have you been at a livestock facility, such as a stock farm or slaughterhouse, within the last week?

Q2.
Are you carrying clothing, shoes, etc. that have touched livestock, their manure or soil? Are you carrying with you any ham or other meat product?

Q3.
Do you plan to touch livestock in Japan within the next week?

Activities to Prevent Introduction of Transboundary Animal Diseases

Awareness raising in collaboration with airlines and travel agencies



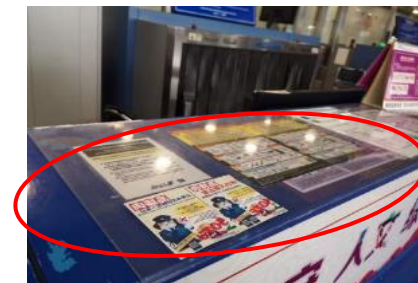
Multilingual posters to inform travelers not to bring in meat products to Japan



Weibo of Japanese embassy in China



Facebook of JNTO (in Vietnamese)



Information at the check-in-counter

QR codes link to the website of the animal quarantine station



Quarantine Detector Dogs in Japan

What are “Quarantine detector dogs”?

- Quarantine detector dogs are trained to detect animal and plant products which are subjected to animal and plant quarantine.
- The first dog was introduced to Narita airport in Dec 2005. Dogs are now located in major international airports.
- The number of quarantine dogs in Japan is 140 as of Mar. 2024.

Number of quarantine detector dogs

2005	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021~
2	18	33	53	105	140

Luggage Inspection



When a quarantine dog detect target items, the dog notifies the handler by sitting down.



An animal quarantine officer inspects traveler's luggage.

Products subjected to animal and plant quarantine

Fresh meat



Ham, Sausage



Dumpling



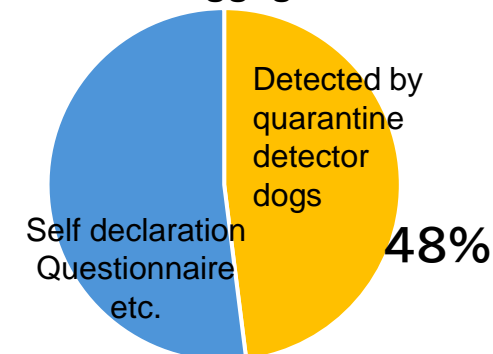
Fruit



Number of illegal imports detected from traveler's luggage or international mails (2025)

(Preliminary data)

Total; 119,097 cases




Strengthening Penalties on Illegal Imports of Livestock Products

More stringent application of penalties for illegal imports of livestock products as of April 22nd 2019.

- Issue warning letters to offenders and make database of illegal cases
- Share information with relevant authorities (Arrested cases exist)

Amendment of the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control as effective of July 1st 2020.

- Raise penalty of fine (1 million yen → 3 million yen)
- Animal quarantine officers have authority to dispose illegally brought meat products



WARNING!!

Important Notification from Animal Quarantine Service

Beginning 22nd April 2019

Penalty for violation against the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control will be applied more stringently for introduction of meat products

Regardless of whether it is abandoned voluntarily, AQS will cope rigorously with the illegal introduction of meat product.


- It is **subject to a penalty in case of confirmation of livestock products such as meat products without import declaration** in passenger baggage.
- Inspection may require certain time for officers to record the information of passport and boarding pass.

On 1st July 2020, the amendment of the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control comes into force, then the punishments change to,

In case of introducing livestock products without passing import inspection, persons shall be punished with **imprisonment for a term of up to 3 years or a fine of up to 3 million yen (up to 50 million yen for businesses).**

Animal Quarantine Service
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Details on introduction of meat products



(別記様式2号)

警告書

No. _____

年 月 日

国 籍: _____

生 年 月 日: _____

パスポート No.: _____

personal Id. No.: _____

農林水産省動物検疫所〇〇支所 (〇〇出張所)

家畜防疫官 _____ 印

貴殿は、年 月 日、別記の畜産物等について、日本国内に不正に持ち込みました。このことは、家畜伝染病予防法 (昭和26年法律第166号。以下「法」という。) 第36条第1項又は法第37条第1項に違反する行為に該当するため、改めて日本の法律を遵守し、二度と輸入が禁止された畜産物等を持ち込まないよう強く要請します。

今後、貴殿が不正に畜産物等を日本国内に持ち込んだ場合、刑事処罰を求めて、刑事訴訟法 (昭和23年法律第131号) 第239条第2項に基づく措置 (告発) 等を取ることがありますので、十分留意して下さい。

農林水産省動物検疫所 〇〇支所 (〇〇出張所)

住所: _____

電話: _____ FAX: _____

自「違反品目録」を添えて2部 (原本、コピー用紙) を作成し、捺印を捺印後、1部 (コピー用紙) を検察官事務に交付の上、1部 (原本) を保管すること。

私は、法第36条第1項 (輸入禁止) 又は法第37条第1項 (輸入のための検査証明書の添付) 及び法第40条第1項 (輸入検査) に違反し、年 月 日、別記の畜産物等を日本国内に持ち込みました。

今回、家畜防疫官から、法第1条 (目的)、法第36条第1項、法第37条第1項、法第40条第1項及び関連する規定 (対象地域・畜産物の内容等) のほか、法第63条に基づく刑事罰の内容 (3年以下の懲役又は300万円以下の罰金) について説明を受け、その目的に關わらず (自己消費目的であっても)、畜産物等を持ち込み違法行為に当たり処罰されることを理解しました。今後、二度と輸入禁止物等を持ち込みません。

警告書を確かに受領しました。

受領日: _____ 年 月 日

入国手段: _____

便 名: _____

住所 (日本滞在先住所): _____

滞在期間: _____ 年 月 日 ~ _____ 年 月 日

氏 名: _____

電話番号: _____

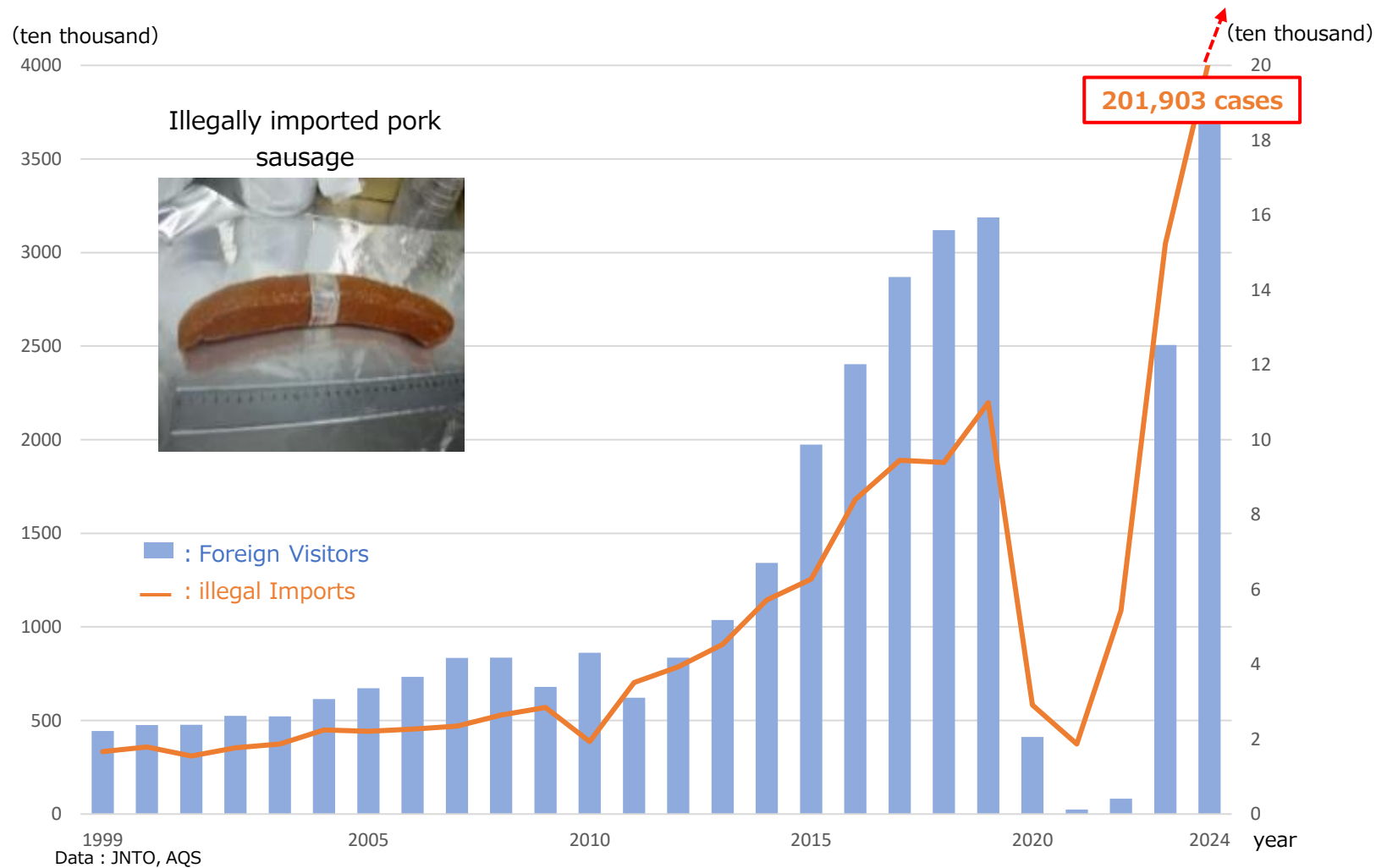
自 署: _____

【Contents of a warning letter】

- Bringing of livestock products are prohibited
- Do not import prohibited goods
- The next time, some actions may be taken, including accusation.
- Pledge to understand that bringing of livestock products are prohibited in Japan and never to bring prohibited goods in the future

signature

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.

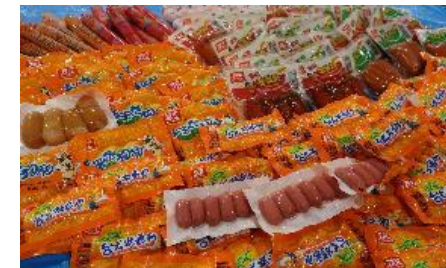
Arrest cases through luggage inspections

Arrested Persons	Date of import	Airport	Items	Date of arrest
1 foreigner	13 Jun 2019	Haneda	Duck eggs (about 25 kg) cloven-hoofed animal meat(about 10 kg)	21 Jul 2019
2 Japanese 1 foreigner	17 May 2019	Fukuoka	Sausages, etc. (91.1kg)	6 Aug 2019 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



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
