



National Livestock Breeding Center

Ohu Station

Incorporated Administrative Agency



***With the history of more than a century,
now and for the future,***

***Ohu Station strives for the breeding and
propagation of excellent beef cattle.***

**NLBC supports the dietary life in Japan
by breeding and with technology.
~ from small seeds to big bulls ~**

Ohu Station was established in 1896, for the purpose of breeding horses for military use. After the war, the main role was shifted to the breeding of Japanese Shorthorn cattle by using the cattle from abroad, etc. At present, our main activities are the efficient breeding and propagation of Japanese Black cattle with the new livestock technologies such as embryo transfer, the development of technologies and putting them to practical use, etc.

Around the station, there is a rich and grand natural environment on foot of Mt. Hakkoda, such as Lake Towada and Oirase Gorge.

We graze cattle and produce hay and silage on large scale parcels of the grassland. We raise cattle mainly on such self-support roughage.

Toward the target set in the mid-term plan of NLBC for 2016-2020, we have been engaged in progeny test of Japanese Black cattle to produce good breeding stock for low cost production of high quality beef, etc., and we are going to contribute to the sustainable development of the livestock industry and provision of a rich dietary life to consumers.

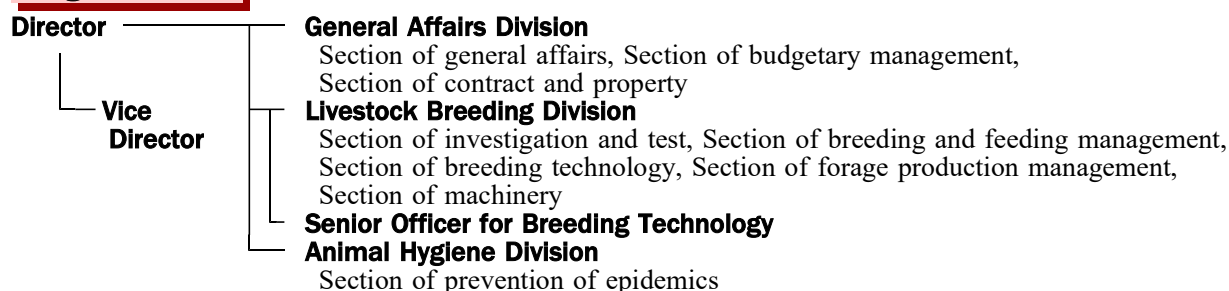


The view from Mt. Miura

History

- 1896 Ohu National Horse Breeding Station was established, and breeding and multiplication of stallions were started.
- 1946 The name was changed to Aomori National Livestock Breeding Station.
- 1947 The name was changed to Ohu National Livestock Breeding Station and Japanese-shorthorn cattle were introduced as the foundation stock of draft and beef.
- 1955 Shorthorn cattle were introduced and breeding of Japanese Shorthorn cattle as beef animals was initiated.
- 1966 Japanese Black cattle were introduced, and breeding and propagation of beef cattle were started.
- 1969 Breeding and multiplication of horses were discontinued.
- 1990 The name was changed to National Livestock Breeding Center, Ohu Station.
- 2001 The center was reorganized from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to the Incorporated Administrative Agency.
- 2008 Progeny test of Japanese Black was started.
- 2014 Research on feed utilization of Japanese Black was started.

Organization



Number of staff members: 61 (As of April 1, 2017)

Geographical features and climate

It is relatively cool and the annual precipitation is rather small. From the raining season to summer, there are some cloudy days of low temperature and lack of sunshine caused by the north-east wind called "Yamase".

- Altitude: 70m (office) - 147m (Mt. Miura)
- Total area: 1, 289ha
- Yearly average temperature: 10.0 °C (2006-2015)
 《The highest: 36.2 °C (August, 2010) The lowest: -15.3 °C (February, 2006)》
- Annual precipitation: 1,277mm
- The maximum snow depth: 152cm (March, 2012)

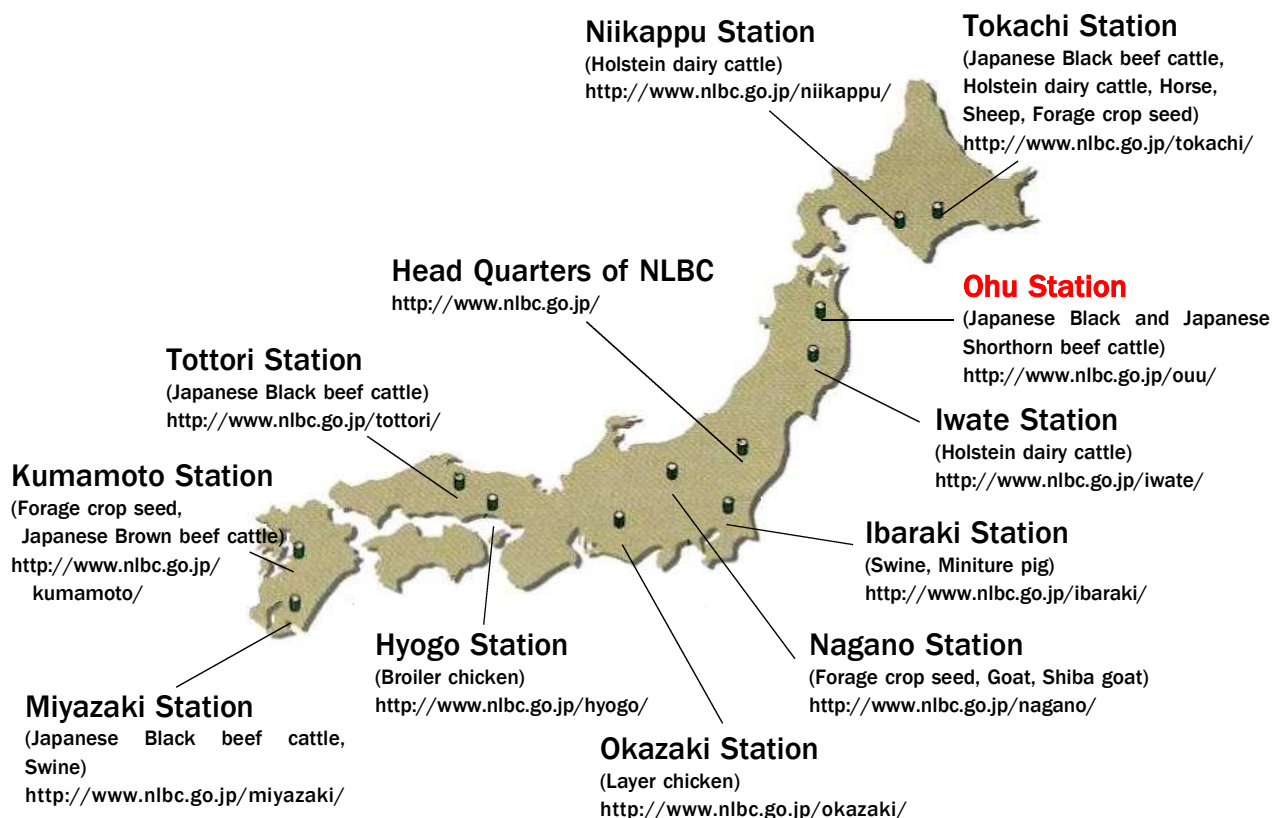


Office Building

(Reference)

The locations and main activities of the headquarters and 11 stations

NLBC is located in 12 places. The headquarters and the stations cooperate to run businesses such as the breeding and propagation of livestock, the improvement of feeding management, the production and provision of seeds and to promote forage crops production. The locations and the kinds of breeding stock are as indicated in the map below. For further details, please visit the HP of each station.



Main Activities

1. Breeding and Propagation of Beef Cattle

To propagate high-performance beef cattle, it is very important to breed and supply excellent proven sires with genetic diversity.

Four (4) NLBC stations (Ohu, Tokachi, Tottori and Miyazaki) are cooperating to produce and supply proven candidate sires. We are also supplying female breeding cattle, embryo, etc. to contribute toward increased production of beef cattle.



Japanese Black



Japanese Shorthorn

◎ Research to establish a test method on feed utilization

In 2014, we started research to establish a test method on feed utilization. We measure feed intake of individual cattle using door feeder (feeder equipped with transponder identification system). About 200 heads of cattle are kept at a time and about 100 heads are completed measurements every year. Through this research, we are going to develop a method to evaluate and select cattle which can grow efficiently with limited amount of feed.



Research facility



Door feeder

◎ Progeny test

We started field progeny test in March, 2008. About 400 heads of cattl are kept at a time and about 200 heaes are evaluated every year.

◎ Supply of Japanese Black breeding materials

Our breeding materials such as female cattle, embryos are supplied to farmers and used for breeding and propagation.

◎ Supply of Japanese Shorthorn breeding materials

Japanese Shorthorn are attracting attention with their high performance of grazing, healthiness, and excellent lean beef. We raise Japanese Shorthorn and supply their female cattle and embryos. Semen for artificial insemination is also supplied.

◎ Production of breeding cattle by using new breeding technologies

▪ Ovum Pick-Up (OPU) and In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) technology

We use OPU-IVF to the cows that have good ability but are difficult to produce embryos with the normal ovum recovery method because of their old age, etc. Using the technology, we can get the progeny of such good breeding cows.



Suction of premature ova



Ultrasonic image of the ovary

2. Disseminating livestock technology and technical guidance responding to policy issues

◎ Demonstration of grazing technology in unused land

For increased production of beef cattle and domestic feed by utilizing unused land and resources such as the former rice fields, we demonstrate and provide technical guidance on grazing technology in unused land.

◎ Demonstration of reseeding technology of the grassland

To improve vegetation of grassland at low cost, we demonstrate and provide guidance on reseeding technology of grassland using drills for reseeding.



Reseeding machine



Before reseeding



Two year after reseeding

◎ Technical training courses and acceptance of trainees

We make efforts to disseminate livestock technology through our cooperation on occasions of technical training courses, animal competitions, etc. We accept domestic trainees and students, and overseas trainees and Japanese experts who are to be dispatched for international technical cooperation program through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). We also dispatch our staff to overseas for technical cooperation through JICA.



3. Forage production

Self-support roughage such as hay and silage is efficiently produced by using big machinery on grassland of about 500ha. (Harvest area counts a total of about 750ha.)

Packing

Hay with the moisture of below 18% after drying is packed to the shape of a column by a roll-baling machine. Half-dried grass with the moisture of 40-60% is sometimes wrapped and prepared to silage.



Wrapping

To prepare silage, the grass is wound up with a wrap film by a wrapping machine to be intercepted from the air. This machine can wind up a film while moving.



4. Local adaptability examination of forage crops

We conduct local adaptability examinations of the forage crop strains brought up in the national and the prefectural experiment stations, in order to contribute to selecting hopeful strains and examination for the registration.

© Corn



© Grasses (orchardgrass)



5. Animal health and disease control

Animal health control, prevention and treatment of diseases and curbing the epidemic for the cattle are conducted to supply healthy and safe cattle and for smooth implementation of the activities of the station.



Disinfection of a vehicle



Check of animal diseases



Intravenous rehydration

6. Livestock excrement management

Feces and urine excreted from the cattle, are treated and processed appropriately. The finished compost is used as manure.

© Composting facility

Livestock excrement is carried to the composting depot, mixed up and down by a wheel loader to be fermented for about two months. Then it will be moved to the composting facility for further fermentation by a rotary-style mixing machine, to produce mature compost.

The finished compost is spread on the grassland as manure.

1) Composting in a depot



2) Composting by a rotary-style mixing machine



4) Spread on the grassland as manure



3) Finished compost

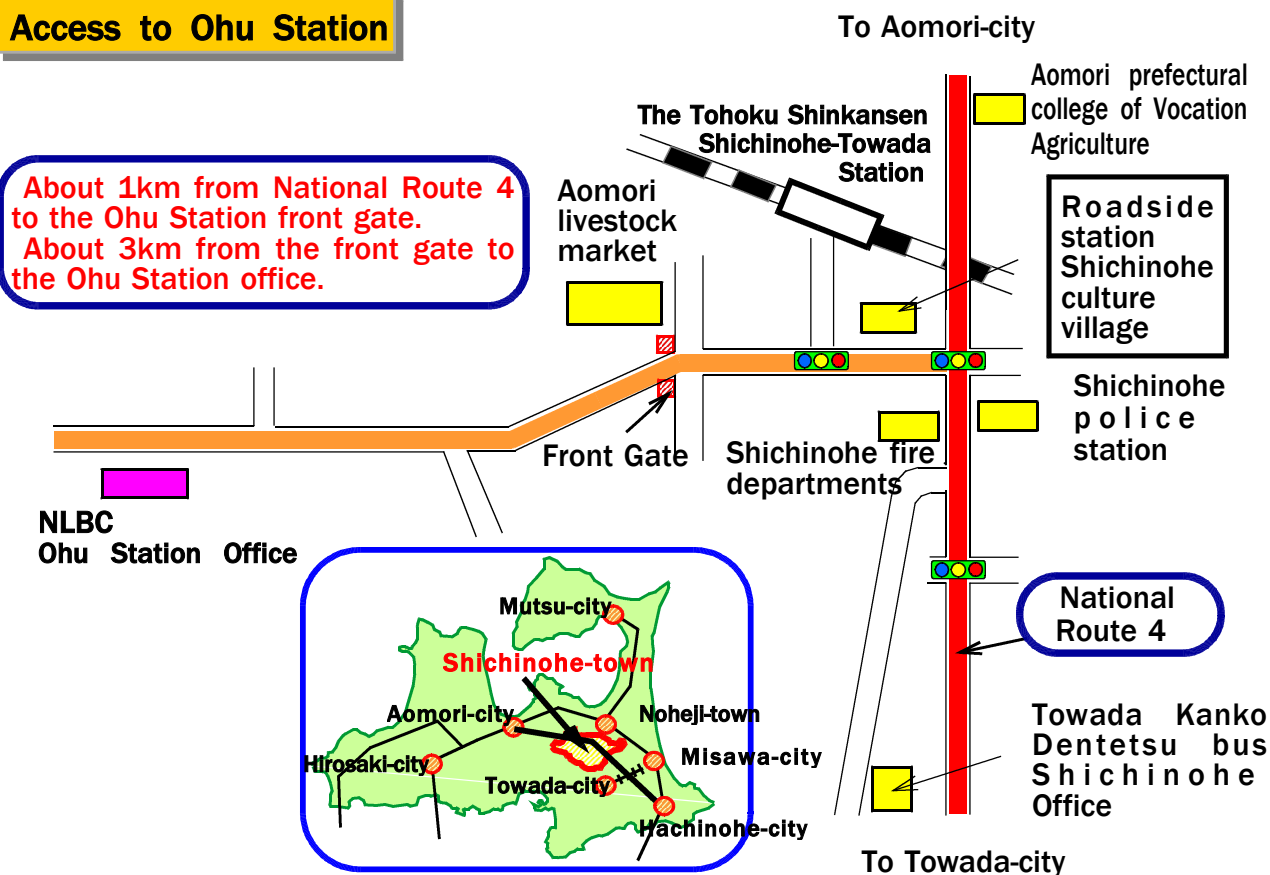


If you want a tour of the station, please contact us in advance and be sure to step into the office.

The visitor should obey the following rules.

- The staff will show you around the station.
- Please do not enter the area of the barn and the grazing without permission, for the epidemic prevention of animal diseases and the safe management of the station.
- Please do not feed the animals.
- Please do not touch the animals and please do not talk too loud nor make a big sound for your own safety.
- Please take all your garbage back home with you.

Access to Ohu Station



Nearest Station : Shichinohe-towada Station (Tohoku-shinkansen : about 10 minutes by car)

Nearest bus stop : Shichinohe-machi culture village (Towada Kanko Dentetsu bus : about 10 minutes by car)

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**NLBC promotes the livestock industry
of Japan by breeding and with technology.**



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