

THE PROBLEM OF HOUSING SYSTEM AND THE SIGNIFICANCES OF GRAZING SYSTEM IN JAPAN

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1. Background and objectives of study

Dairy farming in Japan mostly has advanced through intensification, specialization and subdivision. This type of dairy farming which is called housing dairy system highly depends on a big amount of imported grains for feeding livestock. As the result, the environmental issues appeared, but still now housing system **accounts for the great majority of dairy in Japan**. The objective of this research is to clarify the problem of housing system and the significances of grazing system in Japan.

2. Abstract

In chapter 1, I explain that in Japan housing dairy system brings serious environmental issues and these problems will be able to be solved by converting such housing dairy to grazing system. Figure1 shows these problems and solutions

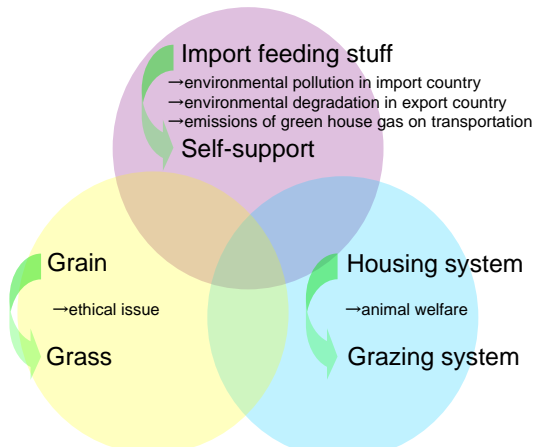


Figure 1 The causes and Solutions of Environmental Problems Occurred by Dairy Farming in Japan

In chapter 2, I assess the environmental impact of mega-housing-farm which is the system enhancing housing dairy system. It was found out that almost

mega-housing-farms practiced in prefectures except for Hokkaido depends on outside of management for most of the large quantities of coarse feed. In addition almost all of such mega-housing-farms do not have fields enough to manage cattle waste which will be manure.

In chapter3, I compare the features of two dairy systems in Japan and with those in foreign countries and suggest their significances from aspects of price, freshness/safety and environment(Figure2). This reveals that the best dairy farming system in Japan is grazing system in Japan as the key of dairy systems in Japan in the future.

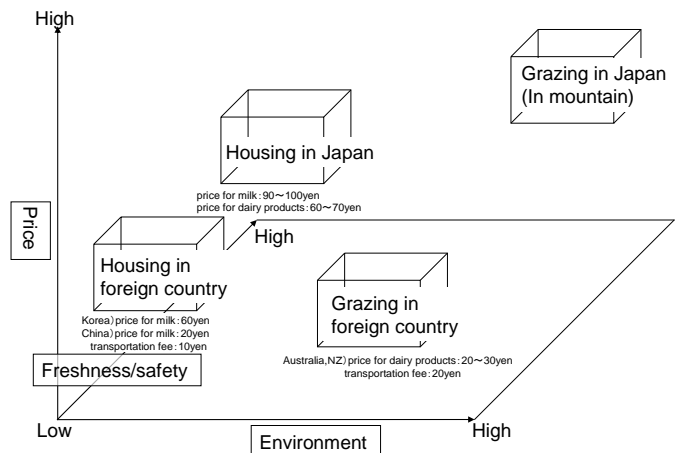


Figure2 Positional Relations among Values of Milk and Dairy products from the three aspects

In chapter 4, I suggest some possible cases of changing form housing to grazing system.

In chapter5, it is necessary to assume 'eco-friendly "yamachi" dairy (grazing in mountains) farming system', which will give particular standards on farming methods and technology in order to conserve environment.