

Agriculture in Hokkaido Japan

April 2025

Department of Agriculture
Hokkaido Government

1 Characteristics of Agriculture in Hokkaido

- Hokkaido accounts for 25% of Japan's total cultivated land area, and has been developed predominantly for rice, field crops, and dairy farming.
- The cultivated land area per farm household in Hokkaido is about 34.1ha., 14 times greater than that of any other prefecture. Business farm households account for 74.4% of the total prefectural farm households, 3.9 times more than that of other prefectures.
- Farmers in Hokkaido run their businesses on a large-scale, full-time basis.

■ Share of Hokkaido Agriculture in Japan

Classification	Unit	Hokkaido	Japan	Share	Year
Cultivated Land Area	thousand ha	1,138	4,272	26.6%	2024
Commercial Farmer	thousand management unit	31.2	883.3	3.5%	2024
	Private managing unit	26.6	842.3	3.2%	
	Full-time	19.8	177.1	11.2%	
	Semi-full-time	1.0	101.6	1.0%	
	Other	5.8	563.6	1.0%	
Commercial farmer	thousand households	30.0	814.6	3.7%	2024
Agricultural Output	100 million yen	13,478	95,579	14.1%	2023
	Cultivation	5,641	57,345	9.8%	
	Livestock	7,837	37,721	20.8%	

■ Farm Households in Hokkaido versus in Other Prefectures

Classification	Unit	Hokkaido (a)	Other Prefectures (b)	a/b	Year
Cultivated Land Area Under Management per Household	ha	34.1	2.5	13.6	2024
Farmland Consolidated for Use by Farmers	%	91.8	49.0	1.9	2023
Percentage of Farmers under 65 Years Old (core agricultural workers)	%	51.5	26.8	1.9	2024
Percentage of Business	%	74.4	19.3	3.9	2024
Agricultural Management Entities Corporate Management	Managing unit	4.3	29.1	0.1	2024
per household					
Number of Dairy Cows	Animal	158.9	73.0	2.2	2024
Number of Beef and Dairy Cows		883.0	299.4	2.9	
Number of Beef-only Cattle		121.7	51.0	2.4	

■ Farm Households in Hokkaido versus in Other Prefectures

Classification	Unit	Hokkaido	Japan	Year
Paddy Rice Farmers	House hold	8,488	542,860	2020
Upland Farmers (Wheat,Potato,Beans,industrial crops)		8,065	55,031	
Horticulture Farmers (Outdoors,Greenhouse,fruit,flower)		9,164	331,808	
Livestock Farmers		5,368	12,837	
Beef Cattle Farmers		1,471	28,027	
Other (Pig Farm,Chicken Farm,Sericulture other)		985	7,647	
total		33,541	978,210	

■ Agriculture in Hokkaido versus nationally in Japan

Classification	Unit	Hokkaido(a)	Japan(b)	a/b	Year
Commercial Farmer (Private), per person					2022
Gross Agriculture Earnings	1000 yen	36,962	7,701	4.8	
Actual Income from Agriculture		5,870	1,031	5.7	

■ Share of Food Manufacturers in All Manufacturing Businesses in Terms of Shipment Value

Classification	Japan	Hokkaido
Share (2022)	8.8%	35.9%

Source: "Statistics of Cultivated and Planted area", "Census of Agriculture and Forestry", "Production Agriculture Income Statistics", "Livestock Statistics", "Farm Household Economy Survey-by Farming Types", etc. by MAFF

Note 1: Figures for "Agricultural Output" for "Japan" is a sum total across all prefectures. The country-wide estimated total of this figure in FY2023 is 9.4987 trillion yen.

2: "Upland Farmers (wheat, potato, beans, industrial crops)" and "Horticulture Farmers (outdoors, greenhouse, fruit, flower)" in the classification columns of "No. of Commercial Farm Households by the Nation's Largest Sales Volume Sectors" are determined based on the actual situation of agriculture in Hokkaido.

3. Figures for "Other Prefectures" in Farmland Consolidated for Use by Farmers" were calculated by Hokkaido Government based on the summary value of all Japan. "Farmers" includes certified farmers (including specified agricultural corporations), basic concept standard achievers, specialized agricultural groups, and community farming that collectively manage agriculture within the community.

2 Hokkaido's Food Self-Sufficiency Ratio

■ Hokkaido's calorie-based food self-sufficiency ratio was 218%. Other than Hokkaido, only five other prefectures, mainly in the Tohoku region, have ever reached a level of self-sufficiency over 100%.

■ Hokkaido also has an output-based food self-sufficiency ratio of 205%.

While there are other prefectures like Miyazaki that have higher output-based ratios than Hokkaido, they produce products with high profitability.

■ Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in Hokkaido supply approximately 20% of domestically-supplied calories, and significantly contribute to a stable food supply in Japan.

■ Food Self-Sufficiency Ratio of Hokkaido and Major Prefectures (As of FY2022)

(Unit: %)

	Self-Sufficiency Ratio	
	Calorie (A)	Output (B)
Japan	38 (38)	58 (61)
Hokkaido	218	205
Aomori	116	216
Iwate	106	180
Akita	196	128
Yamagata	145	165
Niigata	117	96
Miyazaki	63	253
Kagoshima	80	249

Source: "Supply and Demand of Food" Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 * Parenthetical values in the "Japan" row are from FY 2023

■ Hokkaido's Contribution to Domestically-Supplied Calories

(Figures are rough estimate in FY2022)

(per capita per day)

Total Calorie Supply	Domestic Calorie Supply		
	A. Japan	B. Hokkaido	C. Hokkaido's Contribution rate (B/A)
2,252 kcal	850 kcal	202 kcal	24%

Source: "Supply and Demand of Food" Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 Department of Agriculture Hokkaido Government

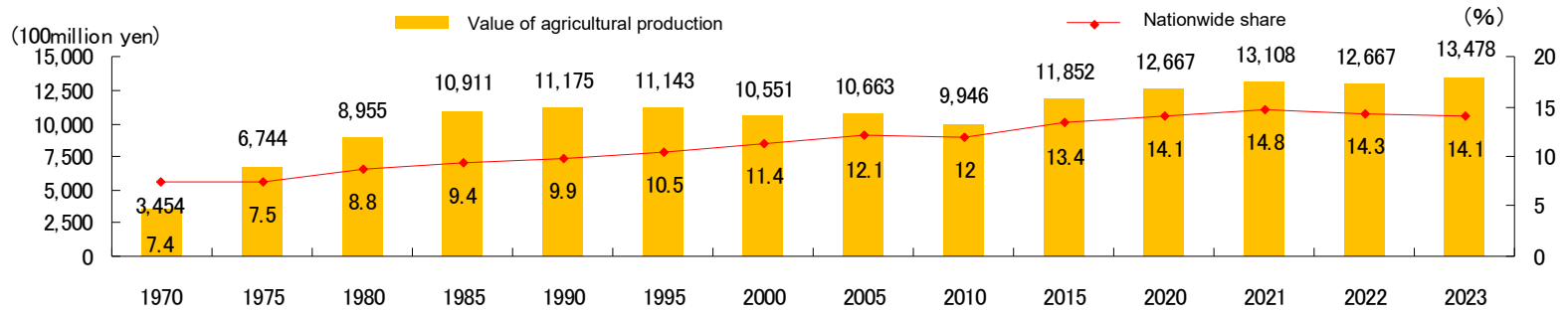
The figures for "Domestic Calorie Supply," and "Hokkaido's Contribution Rate" are based on preliminary calculations conducted by the Hokkaido Government.

Calculations for "Domestic Calorie Supply"
 A. Japan = "Total Calorie Supply" x "Countrywide Food Self-Sufficiency Ratio"
 B. Hokkaido = ①Hokkaido-Produced Calorie Supply x ②Hokkaido Total Population ÷ ③Country Total Population
 ①: Total Calorie Supply x Hokkaido Self-Produced Calorie Ratio
 ②,③: "Population Estimate" by MIC (as of October 1, 2022)

3 Value of Agricultural Production: Changes and Component Ratio

- Hokkaido's agricultural output of 2023, valued at 1.3478trillion yen, comprises 14.1% of Japan's total output. The prefecture's total output has remained above 1 trillion yen since 1984, and reached a record high in 2023.
- wheat and other grains, beans and dairy cattle have higher ratio in Hokkaido's component ratio of the value of production.

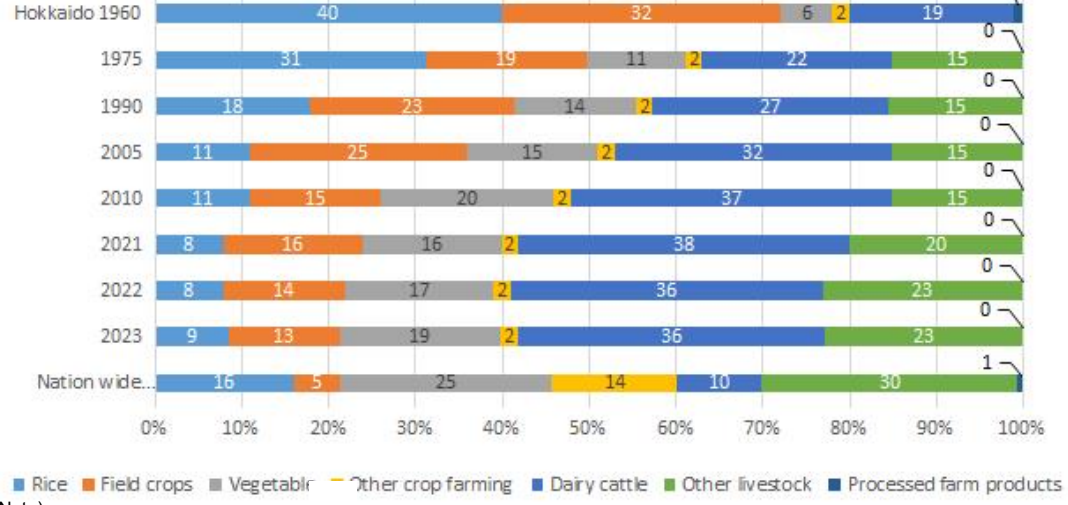
Value of Hokkaido's Agricultural Production and Its Nationwide Share



The Volume of Agricultural Products by Product (2023)

Product	Hokkaido (100mn yen)	Japan (100mn yen)	Share(%)	Rank
Rice	1,149	15,279	7.5	2
Wheat, Millet	435	777	56.0	1
Beans	293	589	49.7	1
Potatoes	591	2,183	27.1	1
Vegetable	2,489	23,243	10.7	1
Fruit	96	9,590	1.0	23
Flower	117	3,522	3.3	10
Other	472	2,163	—	—
Crop Subtotal	5,641	57,345	9.8	1
Dairy Cattle	4,781	9,038	52.9	1
Beef Cattle	1,224	7,787	15.7	1
Pig	608	7,259	8.4	2
Chicken	426	12,596	3.4	8
Other	798	1,041	—	—
Livestock Subtotal	7,837	37,721	20.8	1
Total	13,478	95,579	14.1	1

Component Ratio of the Value of Agricultural Production



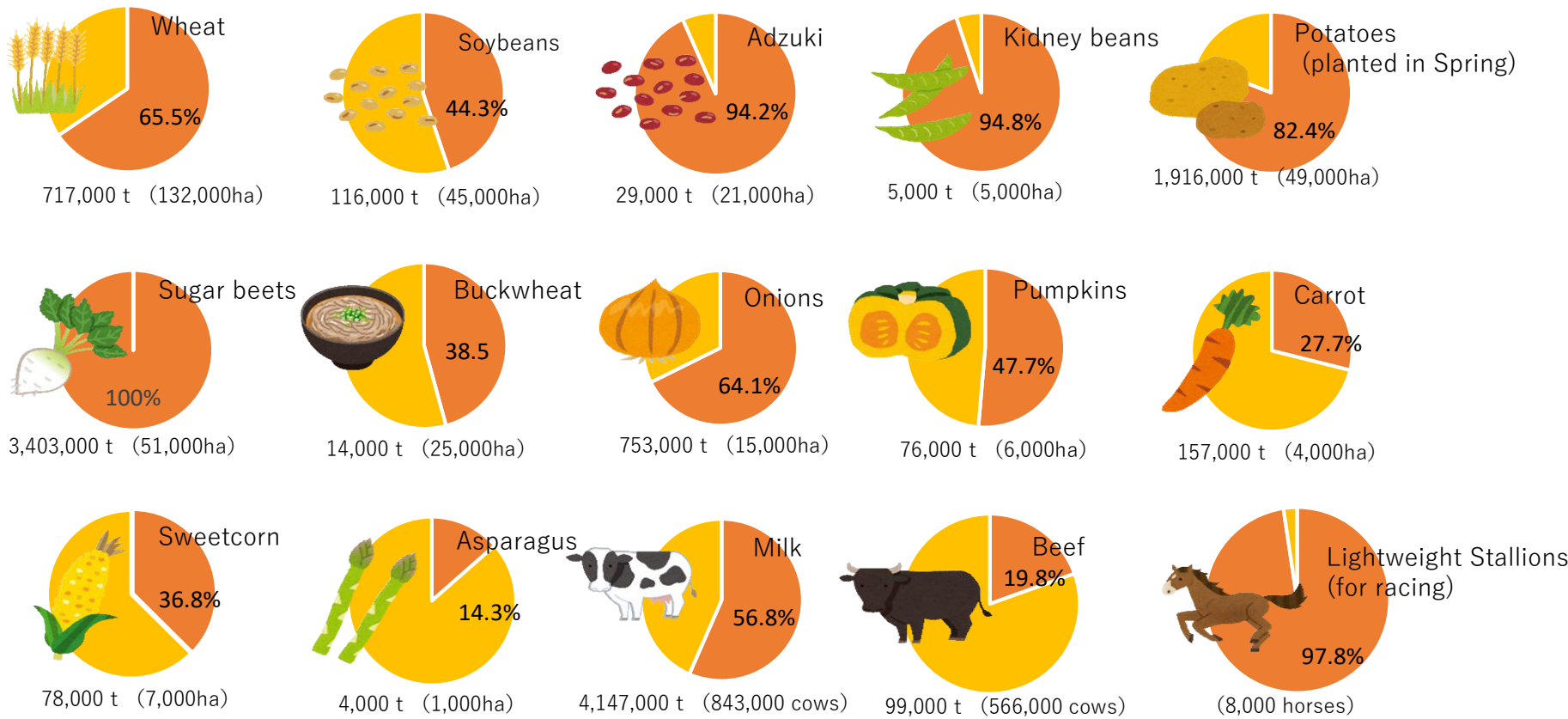
Note)
 The policy for ensuring consistency in the operating income of rice paddies and field farming was introduced in 2007. This led to some of the grants that had been previously included in the value of production of wheat, soybeans, beets and potatoes for starch materials being given to management bodies in a lump sum as grants based on past records of production. They are not included in the value of production of the relevant crops. In the past, each municipality was considered to be a unit when estimating the figures. However, now, a prefecture is considered to be a unit when estimating the figures. For this reason, intermediate products that are sold/purchased between municipalities within the same prefecture are not included in the value of production.

4 Status of Agriculture in Hokkaido

■ Hokkaido makes significant contributions to a stable food supply in Japan, and produces the largest volume of products in many of the major agricultural and livestock sectors in Japan.

■ Major Agricultural and Livestock Products of which Hokkaido is the Largest Volume Producer in Japan (2023)

* Figures in () show either area of cultivation or number of livestock



Sources: 'Crop Survey', 'Survey on the Production of Milk and Milk Products', 'Statistical Survey on Livestock' and 'Survey on Fishery Production and Aquaculture Production' by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

5 Agricultural Characteristics in Each Area

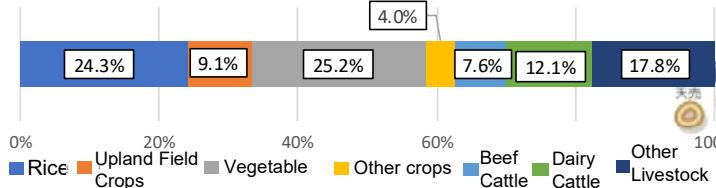
- Hokkaido makes up a large area of Japan, and its weather and geographical conditions vary between regions.
- For this reason, many regions of Hokkaido have unique agricultural practices.

Central Hokkaido Area



Agriculture here is based mainly on rice cultivation, but each region makes use of its unique characteristics, with some growing vegetables and others raising beef cattle or lightweight stallions (for racing).

Agricultural Output 439.1 billion yen (2022)

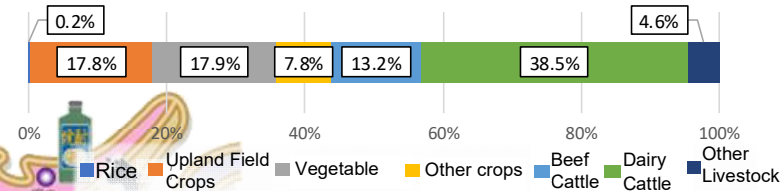


Eastern and Northern Hokkaido (upland farming) Area

Agriculture here is based on large-scale and mechanized upland farming management, mainly producing wheat, soybeans, sugar beets, potatoes, and dairy products.



Agricultural Output 513.6 billion yen (2022)

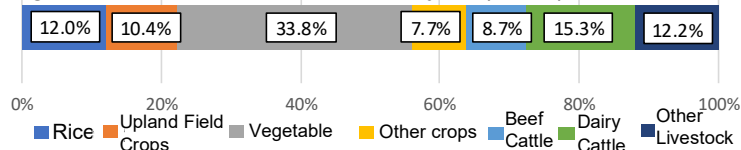


Southern Hokkaido Area



Agriculture here is based on the intensive cultivation of greenhouse horticulture, upland farms, and fruit, as well as rice cultivation.

Agricultural Output 100.8 billion yen (2022)



Eastern and Northern Hokkaido (dairy farming) Area



Agriculture here makes use of the vast meadow areas to conduct large-scale dairy farming at the EU level

Agricultural Output 238.3 billion yen (2022)

