

Asia

Japan, China and Taiwan

Japan

In 1876 Horace Capron and William Clark from Massachusetts in USA were invited to Japan to set up the Sapporo Agricultural College - from 1918 part of Hokkaido Imperial University. The Japanese government sought during this period actively the contributions of foreign experts. Japan was changing from a feudal state to a modern country with open borders.

In 1888, the Sapporo Agricultural College imported from the United States two bulls and twenty heifers of the Guernsey breed. This was before the discovery of the tuberculin test, and unfortunately some of these animals had tuberculosis, which eventually destroyed the whole herd and put an end to Guernsey business in Japan. (Source: Charles Hill: The Guernsey Breed. 1917)

Jerseys were the survivors

On "Kozu Farm", established 1887 was according to Kenroku Hayashi from the very beginning introduced Frisians, Guernseys, Ayrshires, French Canadians and Jerseys. But because of the harsh climate only the Jerseys survived.

Prior to 1930 the Kozu Farm several times imported animals from USA and Australia, which survived the WWII. Some Jersey cattle arrived in 1919 from USA to The Imperial Stock Farm at Sanrizuka, Shimosa, established 1875 for the breeding of cattle, sheep and horses.

Dr. Issa Tanimura came to the United States and obtained a number of Jerseys,



A cattle show in Japan.

contributions from American breeders, took them to Japan and placed them on his farm, which adjoined that of the Emperor, who was taken to see them, admired them, and bought them for the Imperial Stock Farm, where their descendants stayed. In the mid 1930s the Jerseys was the principal breed at The Imperial Stock Farm, supplemented by some Holsteins.

In 1919 the Mitsui family, leaders of many of the business enterprises of Japan, started a dairy to supply the family with good milk. In 1927 three Jerseys, purchased on the Island of Jersey from Mr. John A. Perree, were shipped to this dairy via the Suez Canal, and reached their destination in good condition. In the mid 1930s there were twelve Jerseys in the Mitsui herd.

Japan had a Jersey cattle association in 1920, which issued at least one volume of a herd book. However this association only existed a few years. The law in Japan did not require more than three per cent fat in market milk, and this did not encourage the keeping of cows giving rich milk.

In the mid 1930s following farms kept Jerseys in Japan: Imperial Stud, 28; Kozu Farm, 150; Sakagawa Milk House, 20; Mitsui Dairy, 12; Nakao Dairy, 3; Kamishiro Dairy, 2; Sumikura Dairy, 2; total 217. (Source: Gow: The Jersey. 1938)

Import of Jersey cattle from Australia

After the WW2 and prior to 1953 the total number declined to 150, of which half were at Kozu Farm and the rest in

the nearby areas. Kozu Farm was in that period the centre of Jersey breeding in Japan.

In 1953 the Japanese Government subsidized an importation of Jersey cattle from Australia, New Zealand and U.S.A. And according to Kenroku Hayashi the government in 1954 planned to subsidize another importation of 2,000 Jerseys. (Source: Jerseybladet 1954)

In 1938 Paul Rusch had founded KEEP (The Kiyosato Educational Experiment Project - an organization dedicated to education, outreach, and service to others - a place for communal learning, enrichment and development. Rusch envisioned programming around the concepts of Food, Health, Faith, and Hope for Youth).

When Paul Rusch returned to Japan after WWII, he found the people of Kiyosato eating potatoes and grains reserved for the animals, as the high altitude of the Yatsugatake Highlands makes growing rice impossible. Understanding the need for Kiyosato citizens to become self-sufficient, KEEP introduced dairy farming with imported Jersey cattle from American donors. The milk produced on the farm was distributed free of charge to local schools as part of KEEP's outreach to the region.

"Today, KEEP's Ohio Experimental Farm is a busy educational farm with programs for school groups, agricultural internships, and public classes for those interested in learning more about dairy farming. Our restaurants use KEEP Jersey milk products in their food preparation. The Farm Shop and the Jersey Hut sell KEEP's milk, yogurt,



In the 1930s Japan counted seven Jersey establishments with 217 animals.





A prizewinning Jersey at KEEP County Fair, 1961. KEEP (*The Kiyosato Educational Experiment Project*) was founded in 1938 by Paul Rusch.

ice cream, and other food products to visitors. Many people in Japan order items directly from the KEEP web site." (Website: American Committee for KEEP, Inc.)

Jersey cows were brought to Okayama in 1955 from New Zealand, and now the area has the largest number of Jerseys in Japan. The climate is mild, with year-round sunshine. The most popular dairy products are Hiruzen Jersey yoghurt and Camembert cheese made with Jersey milk, valued for their high quality and good taste. (Website: Okayama Jersey Dairy Products and Japanese Beef)

China

China received a cargo on 30 Jerseys in 1933 from USA and apparently some more in the 1940s.

But not within 1997 China again purchased Jerseys in America. The idea of exporting Jerseys began in 1989 when the AJCA Executive Secretary, Calvin Covington, began discussions with the Chinese. Since the initial discussions three groups of representatives from China visited the US to study Jerseys and Covington visited China three times.

In early March 1997 the US shipped six heifers and two bulls to China. The Jerseys would be used for demonstrations,

research, and to help reintroduce Jerseys to China. The Chinese were interested in Jerseys for two reasons. First, the south-eastern section of China is extremely hot and humid, and second, the Chinese population likes higher fat dairy products. (Sources: e.g. Jersey Journal, 1997)

Evaluation of the first import

The Chinese in 2005, evaluated on the import of Jersey cattle as follows:

"Through transfer and hybridization, Jersey gene was transferred into China's Holstein cattle. 180 Holstein-Jersey cattle containing 50%~75% jersey genes have already been reproduced. Holstein-Jersey milk cows show the qualities of good heat-resistance, easy feeding and rich milk and fragrant flavour, mostly welcomed by the owners. At present, 30 Holstein-Jersey milk cows have begun producing milk with an average unit production of 6,088 kg. (mature equivalent). The butterfat percentage is 3.83%, butter protein ratio 3.01% and content of solid-non-fat 8.53%". (Significant Progress in the Study on "Integrated Control Technology of High-temperature and High-Humidity Milk Cow Thermal Stress" in Fujian (www.most.gov.cn)

"The growth of China's economy has seen a big growth also of the Dairy industry. This has not only meant the impact of the dairy cattle, but Dairy companies Fonterra of New Zealand, Murray Goulbourn of Australia, have set up there own Dairy Farms". (WJCB 2007)

In recent years Australia has exported thousands of Jerseys to China.

Taiwan

Most Taiwan native cattle known as Taiwan Yellows belong to Indian cattle, *Bos indicus*.

The appearance of these cattle is similar to the Jersey breed. Results of blood typing indicated that Taiwan Yellows shared some genealogy with European cattle.

The US Relief Agency in 1947 shipped 75 dairy cattle to Taiwan and distributed to National Taiwan University and various agricultural improvement stations around Taiwan. Most of the 75 dairy cattle were Holsteins, with a few Ayrshire, dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey and Jersey.

