

PRESENT STATUS OF FERAL CROSSBRED OF PIG x WILD BOAR IN JAPAN

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To investigate the present status of farming and feralization of the crossbred of pig x Wild boar, a questionnaire survey to the livestock departments of prefectural governments and 679 hunter groups of 47 prefectures in Japan was conducted.

The crossbred farms were established only in 10 prefectures around 1960 and spread into 29 prefectures (Fig.1). The increase of crossbred farms has been facilitated by the recent rise in popularity and high commercial value of the Wild boar meat especially in tourist resorts. The crossbred boar x pig has many merits such as increase of litter size, growth rate and survival rate. The feralization has occurred simulta-

neously with spread of the farms. Until now, the feral crossbred has been found and caught in 36 prefectures (77%) (Fig. 2) and they still inhabit in 24 prefectures (51%). These feral animals have damaged agricultural crops and plantations, but no prefecture has regulation laws of the crossbred farm management and the control of these feral animals. Moreover hunter's attitude complicated this troublesome situation; 45% hunter groups wish to exterminate the feral crossbred, while 23% favor them as game. Further, some hunter groups release them to field. A strong legal regulation of crossbred farm management should be provided to avoid these problems.

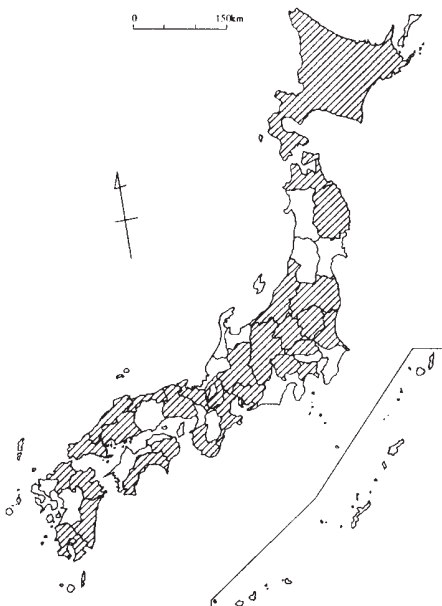


Figure 1 - Present distribution of crossbred farms.

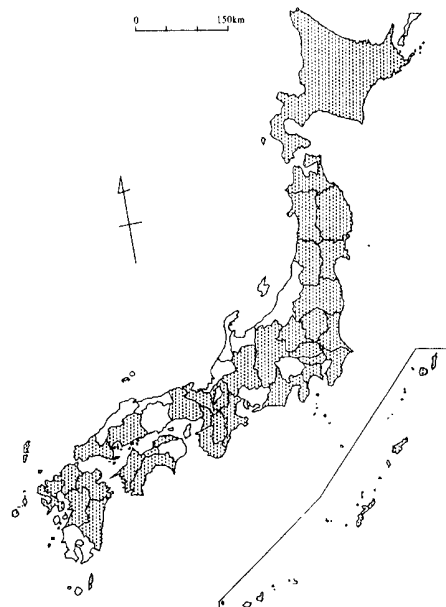


Figure 2 - Distribution of prefectures where feral crossbreds have escaped.