

# **Individual Cattle Identification and Beef Traceability System in Japan**



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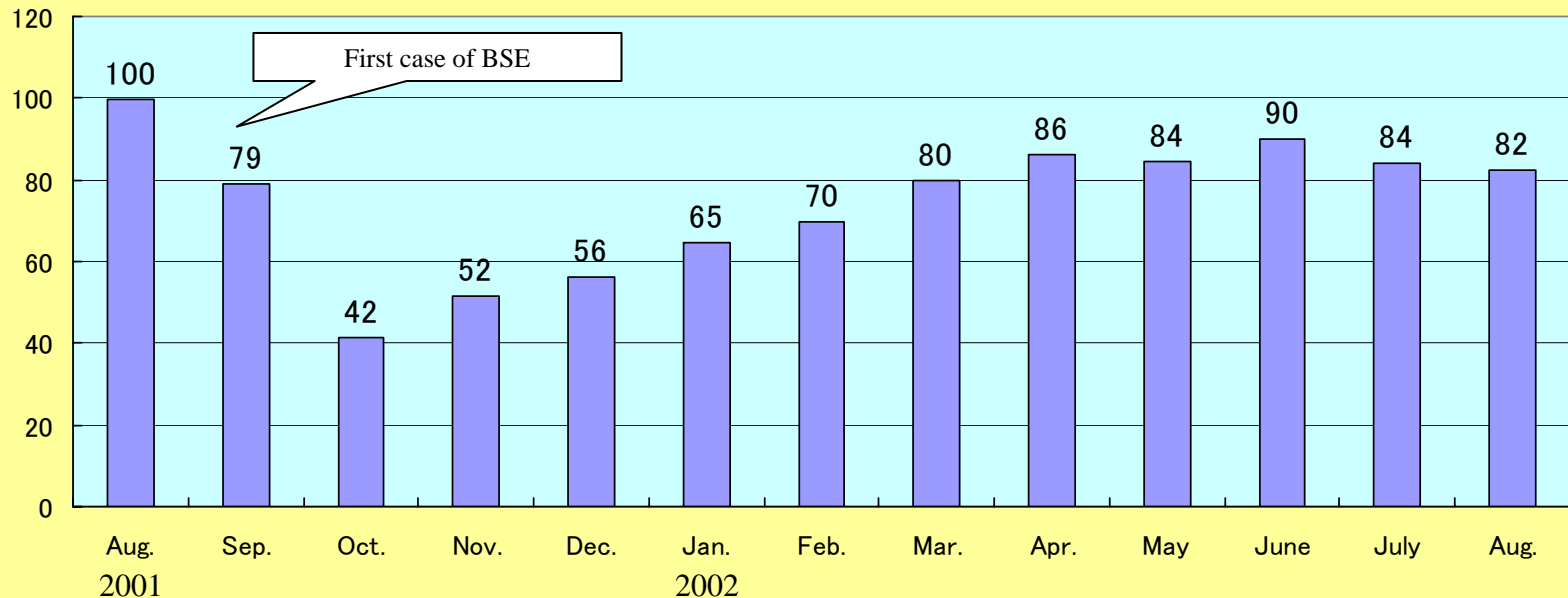
# 1. Turmoil after the BSE outbreak and the decrease of beef consumption

## (1) Turmoil after the BSE outbreak

- ✖ Japanese Government announced the first case of a Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) suspected cow on September 10th in 2001.
- ✖ Japanese mass media covered it extensively.
- ✖ Japanese consumers thought that beef was not safe because of BSE. Therefore, beef consumption decreased drastically.

## (2) Decrease of beef consumption (Household consumption quantity per person)

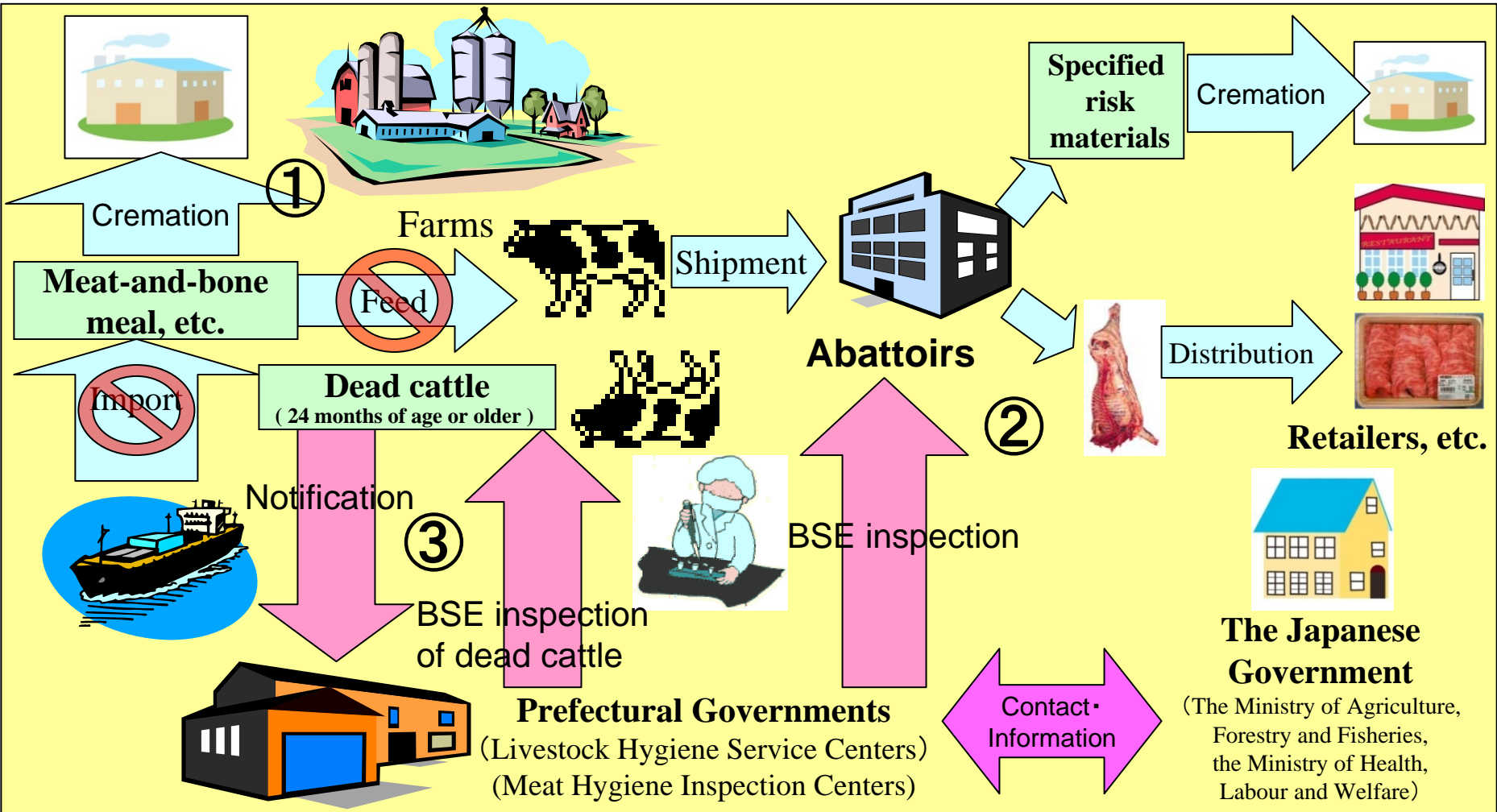
(Ratio over the same month of previous year)



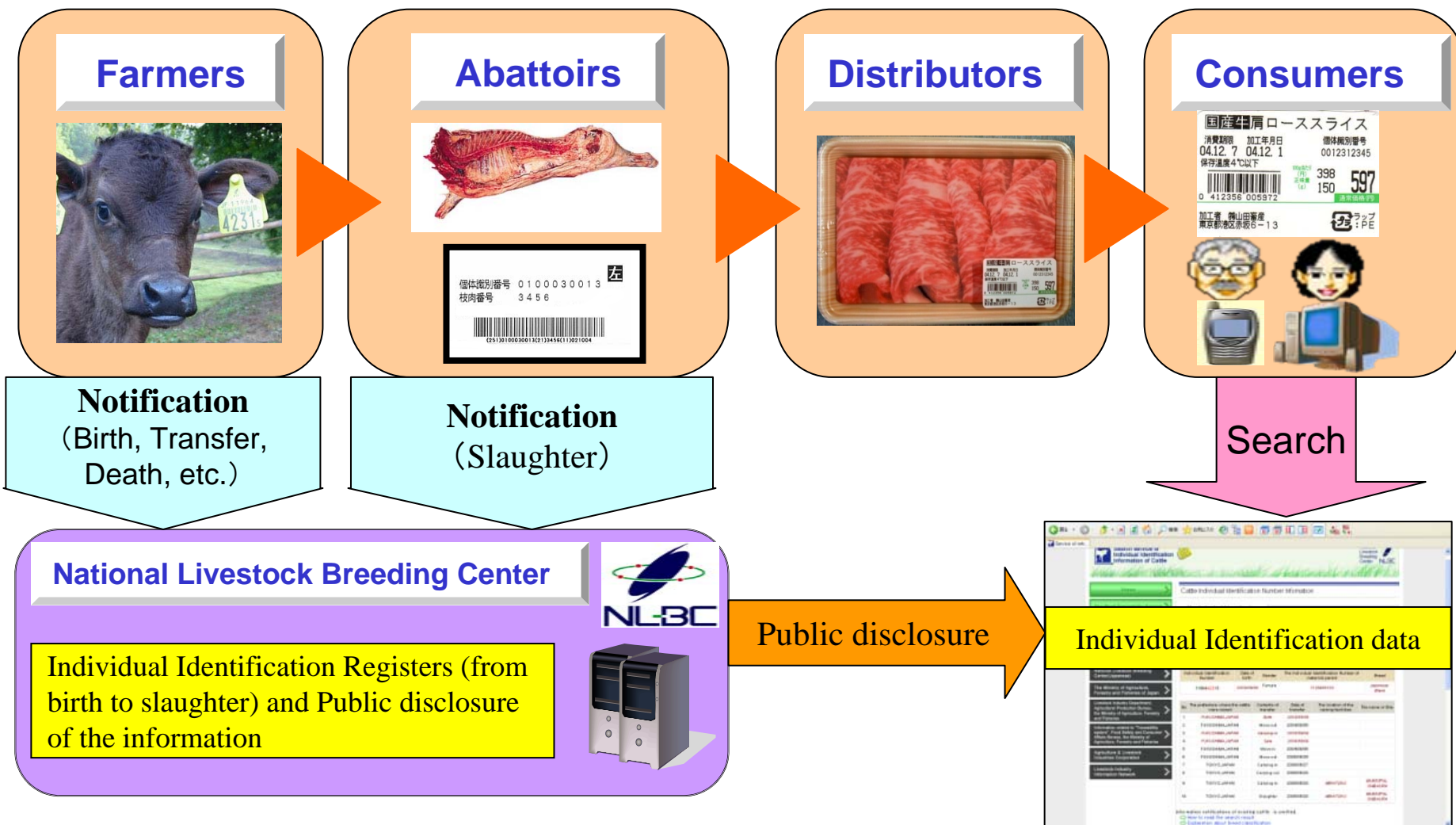
Source: The Ministry of Internal Affairs and communications, "Family Income and Expenditure Survey"

# 2. Series of measures after the BSE outbreak

- ① To prohibit the feeding of meat-and-bone meal, etc. to prevent further infection of BSE (Since October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001).
- ② To implement BSE inspection of slaughtered cattle and removal of specified risk materials at abattoirs (Since October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001).
- ③ To enforce reporting of dead cattle at farm 24 months of age or older and to implement BSE inspection of the cattle (Since April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003).

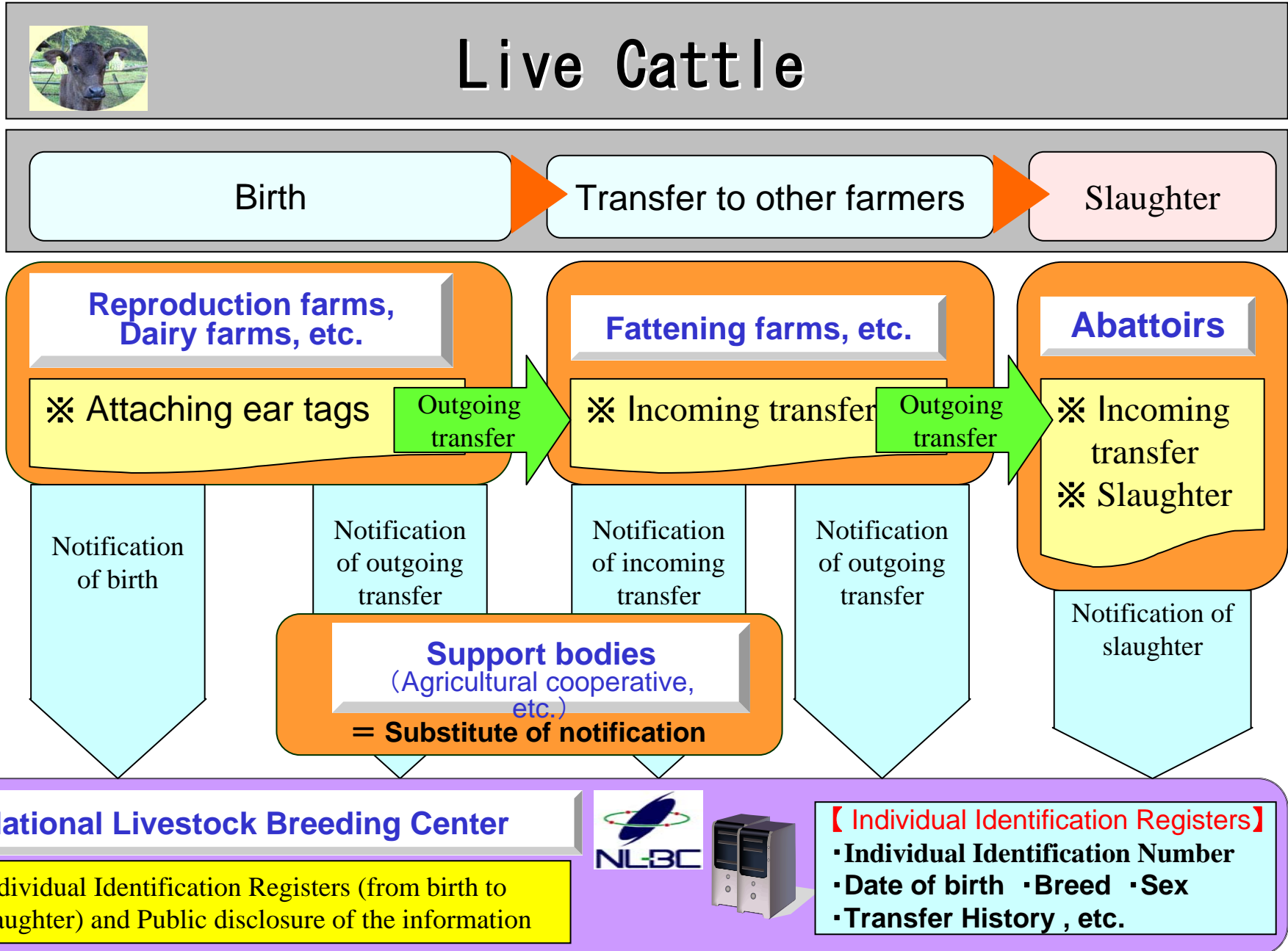


# 3. Individual Cattle Identification System, Beef Traceability System and Role of NLBC



**The Japanese animal identification system complies with the rules in chapter 4.2 of the OIE terrestrial Code ‘Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability’.**

# 4. 1 Details of Beef Traceability System (from Birth to Slaughter)



# 4. 2 Details of Beef Traceability System (from carcass to Dressed meat)



## Beef

Carcass

Cut meat

Dressed meat ▪ Designated Cuisine (Sukiyaki, Steak, etc.)

**Abattoirs**

❖ Maintenance of registers

Indication and relay of Individual Identification Numbers on Beef or its containers, etc.

**Sellers ▪ Designated Cuisine suppliers**

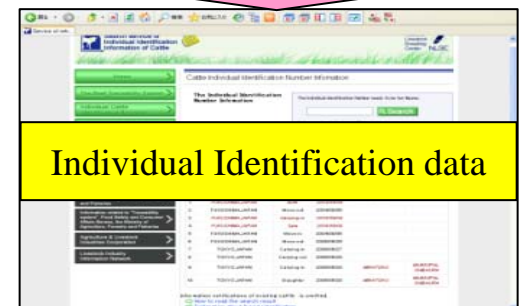
❖ Maintenance of registers

Indication and relay of Individual Identification Numbers on Beef or its containers, etc.

**Consumers**

❖ Individual Identification Numbers make it possible to search for the transfer history of cattle.

Search



Individual Identification data

Individual Identification Number	Registration Date	Registration Status	Registration Location	Registration Method	Registration Date	Registration Status	Registration Location	Registration Method
12345678901234567890	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual
12345678901234567890	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual
12345678901234567890	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual
12345678901234567890	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual	2010-01-01	Active	Abattoir	Manual

# 5. 1 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information (Ear tags and Individual Identification Number)

## (1) Ear Tags for Individual Identification

Requirements of ear tags for Individual Identification are as follows.

- (i) The tags should be manufactured in such a manner that they cannot easily be detached after being attached.
- (ii) The tags should be manufactured in such a manner that they cannot be re-attached after removal.
- (iii) The Individual Identification Number should be of an easily identifiable color and size.
- (iv) The Individual Identification Number should be manufactured in such a manner that it cannot be easily tampered with, modified or erased.

## (2) Individual Identification Number

- ① The Individual Identification Number consists of 10 digits.
- ② Only one Individual Identification Number can be used during the lifetime of each animal. If the ear tags become detached, a new ear tag bearing the same Individual Identification Number should be reissued.

**Individual Identification Number**  
**10 digits : 1 0 0 0 0 5 4 3 2 1**



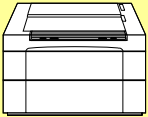
## 5.2 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information (Notification of Individual Cattle Identification Information )

### Systems of notification

Reference : Number of notifications in FY2007 is about 12 million.

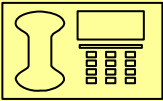
Note : 1) Figures in ( ) represent percentage of total notifications in FY2007.

2) Words in [ ] represent main users.



① **Facsimile** (18.3%) **【Farmers, Support bodies, Abattoirs】**

Notification by filling in a report and sending it by facsimile



② **Computer Telephony Integration** (5.7%) **【Farmers】**

Notification by pushing numbers on a touch-tone phone



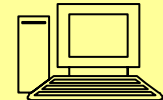
③ **Mobile phone [Web]** (0.6%) **【Farmers】**

Notification by entering information in a form from a mobile phone



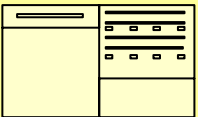
④ **Personal computer [Web]** (15.2%) **【Farmers】**

Notification by filling in a form from a personal computer



⑤ **Local office system** (20.4%) **【Support bodies, Abattoirs】**

Notification via the internet (e-mail)



⑥ **File transfer protocol** (39.8%) **【Support bodies , Abattoirs 】**

Notification by connecting to the database of some agricultural cooperatives with the Individual Identification Registers

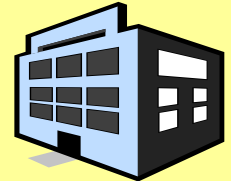


# 5. 3 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information (Urgent search for BSE Cohort)

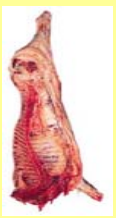
## ※ Urgent search for BSE Cohort



Farms

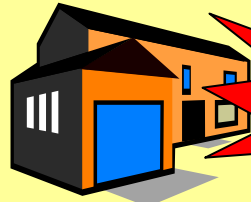


Abattoirs



BSE inspection of dead cattle

BSE inspection



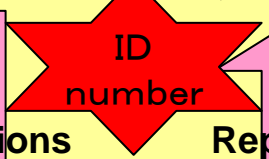
**Prefectural Governments**  
(Livestock Hygiene Service Centers)  
(Meat Hygiene Inspection Centers)



Contact Information

**The Japanese Government**

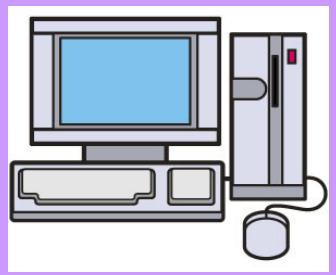
(The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)



Instructions of search

Reply to the Instructions

**National Livestock Breeding Center**



Preparation

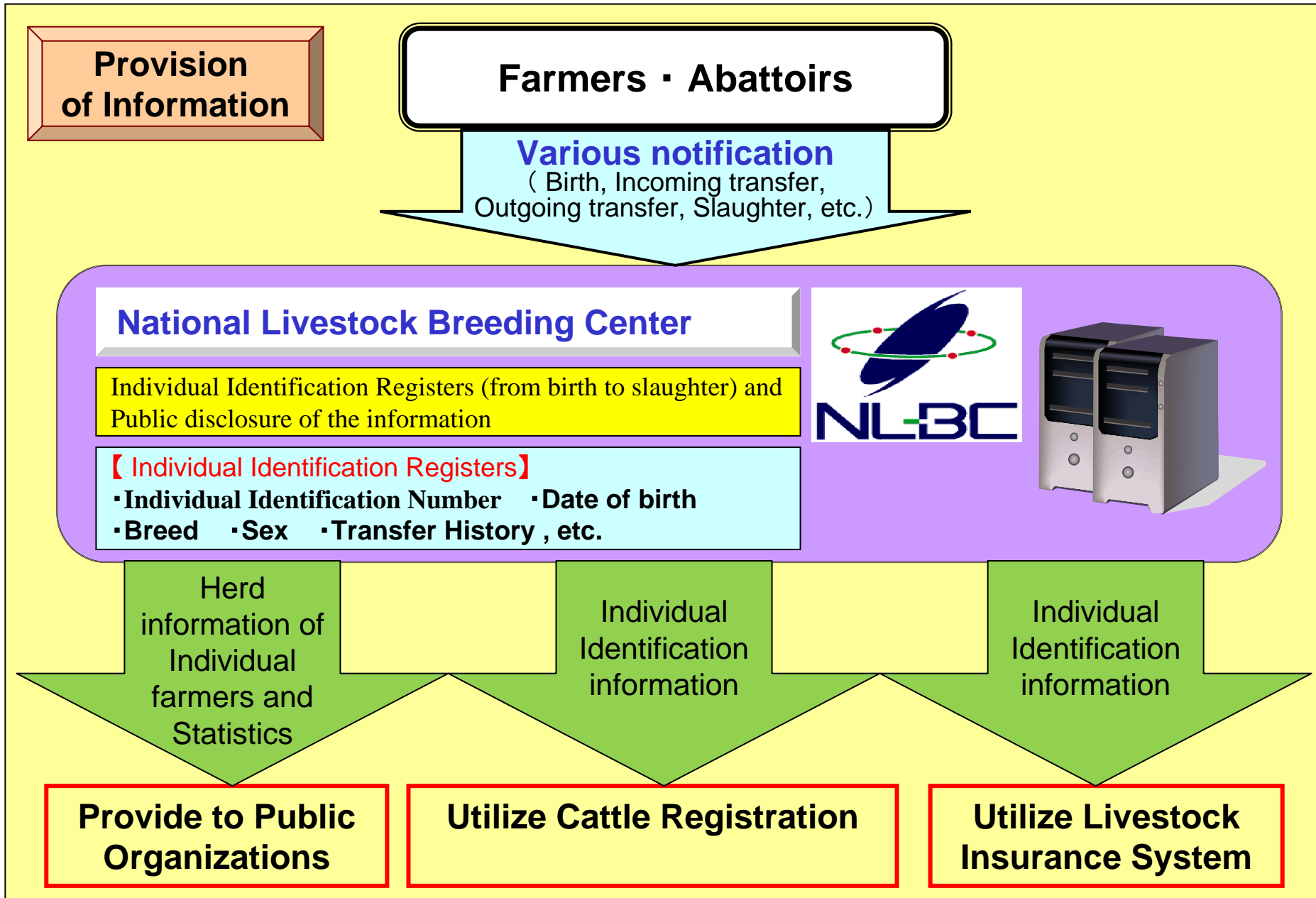
The infected cattle information

The information of the farm keeping the infected cattle

The list of cattle born from the infected cow

The list of cohort

# 5.4.1 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information (Utilization of Individual Cattle Identification Information)



## 5.4.2 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information (Utilization of Individual Cattle Identification Information)

### Provide to Public Organizations

- ※ Provide prefectural governments with herd information of individual farmers for establishing administrative policies and statistics.

### Utilize Cattle Registration

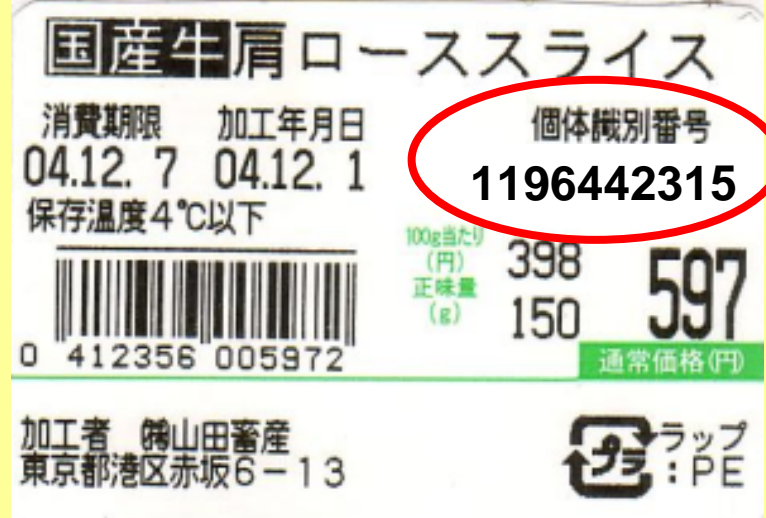
- ※ Provide the Holstein Cattle Association of Japan with Individual Cattle Identification Information (Date of birth, Sex, Breed, Name of Manager, etc.) for publishing registrations automatically.

### Utilize Livestock Insurance System

- ※ Provide Livestock Insurance Cooperative with Individual Cattle Identification Information (Date of birth, Sex, Breed, Name of Manager, etc.) for the sake of proper and efficient procedure of underwriting agreement, accident, etc.

# 5. 5.1 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information) (Public disclosure of Individual Cattle Identification Information)

Consumers



# 5.5.2 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information) (Public disclosure of Individual Cattle Identification Information)

Search via a web site on a personal computer

**10-digit ID number**

**Birth date**

**Sex**

**Mother's ID**

**Breed**

**Owner's address and name**

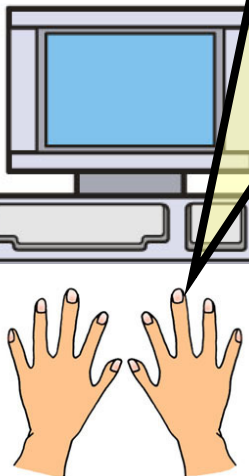
**Transfer status**

**Location of cattle**

**Transfer date**

Search number of heads per day : about 90~110 thousand

(URL) <https://www.id.nlbc.go.jp/english/>



# 5.5.3 Supervision of Individual Cattle Identification Information (Public disclosure of Individual Cattle Identification Information)

Search via a web site of a mobile phone

※ Japanese site only



牛の個体識別番号検索

個体識別番号

1. 検索 (0/50回)

9. 戻る



<牛個体情報>

1 個体識別番号: 11964 42315

2 出生の年月日: H15.09.08

3 雌雄の別: メス

4 母牛の個体識別番号: 1128694102

5 種別(品種): 黒毛和種

<履歴1>

A 飼養県: 福島県

B 異動内容: 出生

C 異動年月日: H 15.09.08

D 飼養施設所在地: 石川郡平田村

E 氏名または名称: 和馬牧場(三本松善郎)

<履歴10>

A 飼養県: 東京都

B 異動内容: と畜

C 異動年月日: H 18.06.28

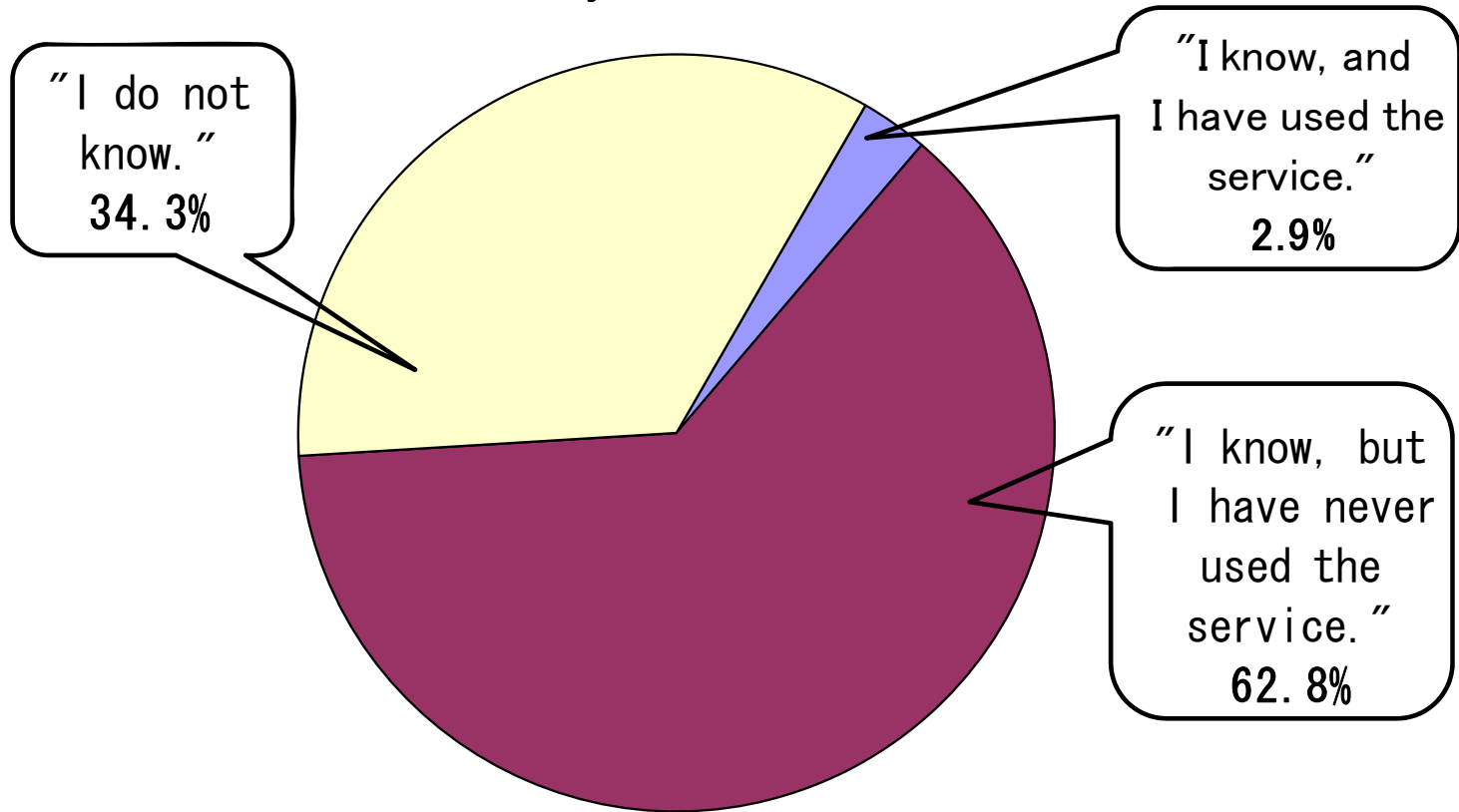
D 飼養施設所在地: 港区

E 氏名または名称: 東京都立芝浦と場

Search number of heads per day : about 6~7 thousand

## 6. Rate of recognition of Individual Cattle Identification System

※ Rate of recognition of Search service of Individual Cattle Identification Information  
(survey in June 2008)



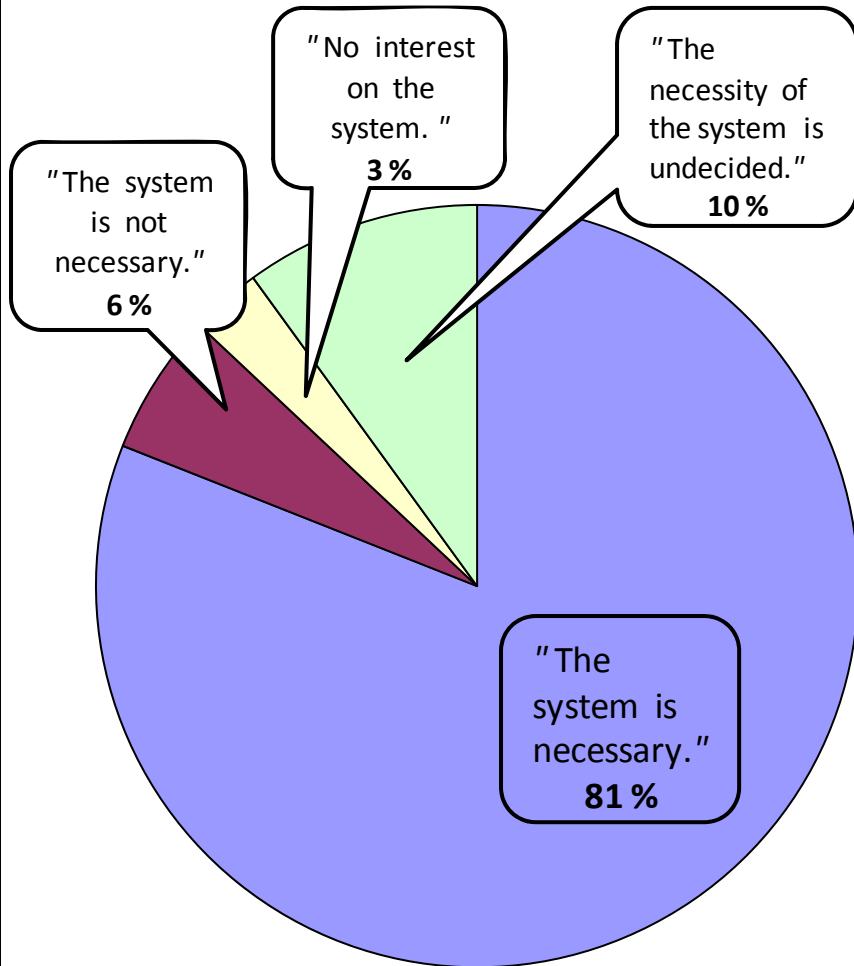
Source : The Japan Meat Information Service Center, "Survey of Trends in consumption (Survey of Consumer)"

Note : Result of the questionnaire survey administered to 2,102 families

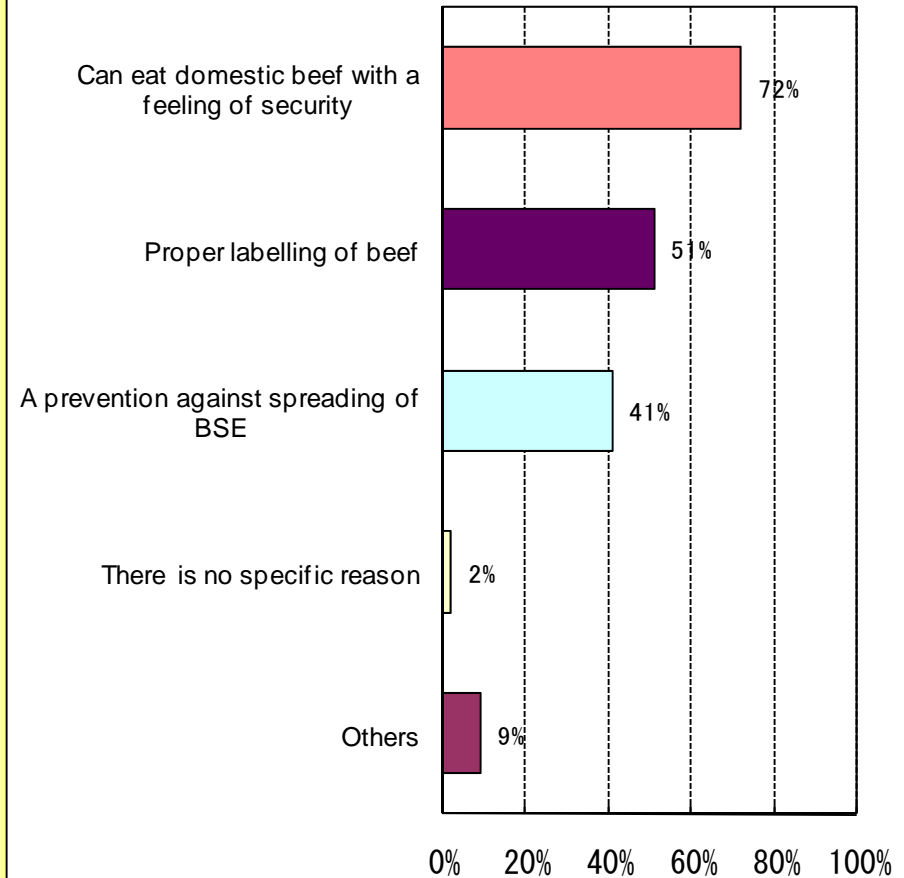


# 7. The understanding of the Beef Traceability System by the Japanese Population

※ Necessity of Beef Traceability System  
(Survey from Dec. 2006 to Jan. 2007)



※ Reason of "The system is necessary." –Results  
(Multiple responses)



Source : The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, "The First Survey for Monitor about Safety and Surely in FY 2006"

Note : Result of the questionnaire survey administered to 1,575 people



## 8. Requests from Consumers, Farmers, Distributors, etc.

### Requests from Consumers, Farmers, Distributors, etc.

#### 【Consumers】

- ※ Have an interest in place of origin (longest rearing prefecture) , supplied feed and medicine, etc. , when they buy beef

#### 【Farmers, Farmer's Bodies】

- ※ Possible merits from the Individual Cattle Identification System such as,
  - Introduction of a Radio Frequency Identification system for the purpose of the automatic Individual Identification registries and reduction of labor for notifications, etc.
  - Linking of Individual Identification Registers with other information (Pedigree Information, Carcass Grading Information, Vaccination Information, etc.)

#### 【Distributors】

- ※ Want to utilize Individual Identification Information as a measure to confirm the indication of the place of origin which is based on the JAS (=Japanese Agricultural Standard) law ※
- ※ If they prefer the indication of prefecture name to that of domestic, it should indicate the prefecture name where the cattle was raised for the longest period.