

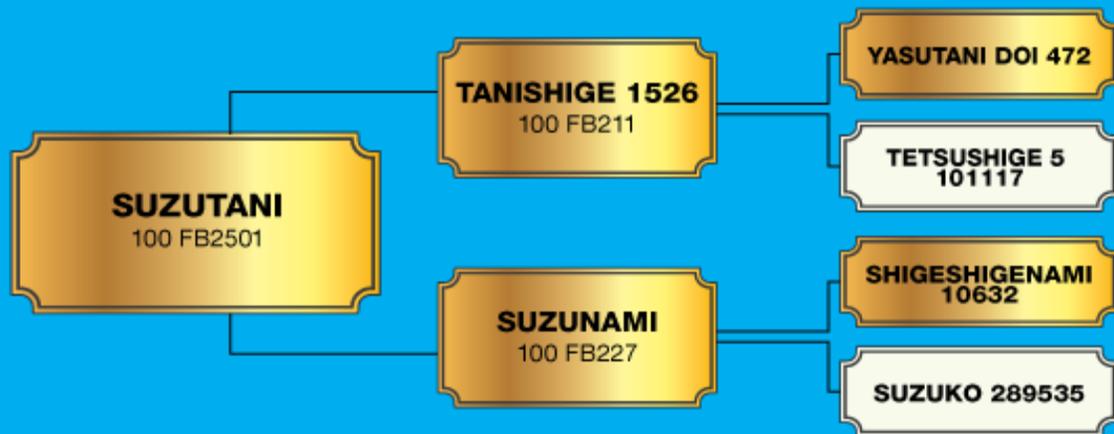
MATERNAL LINE FEATURE: SUZUTANI

Suzutani was an original import from Japan in 1993. Since then she has done nothing but perform! She has produced prolific donor dams, elite sires, and demonstrating the ability to transmit performance into the feedlot. She is the dam of successful foundation sires like Sanjirou, Shigeshigetani, Kanadagene, Shikikan, and Sanjiro 3. Now, her direct maternal descendants are sorting themselves to the top of EBV lists in Australia and EPD lists in the USA. Her success as a matriarch has been and continues to be felt around the globe. Here we will breakdown why this maternal line has seen so much global praise and demand, what sires are excelling now, and what donors may be the next "Suzutani" in the making.

This foundation cow from 1993 was well ahead of her time, even now with all the genetic progress that has been made in the last 25 years she still possesses a TCI (Terminal Carcass Index) of \$174 which is better than the breed average of \$154. As her Breedplan EBVs tell us she excels in Eye Muscle Area at + 4.1 and in Marble Score at + 1.1. These two traits have been the Suzutani's calling card in the Wagyu industry, known by feedlotters and seedstock producers alike. Suzutani has proven the ability to transmit this to the next generation from the start by producing sons Sanjirou, Shikikan, and Kanadagene who all excel in these areas as well.



WORLD K'S SANJIROU



Eye muscle area and marble score represent two key elements of the carcass that hold extreme value. The ability to increase marble score and eye muscle area on the carcass will increase profitability. In a recent Farmonline.com.au article Scott de Bruin of Mayura Station is quoted as saying “unlocking the value in eye muscle area is crucial to improving the overall value of the carcass.” de Bruin has focused heavily on making genetic progress in this area and says “loin weights on all our carcasses have increased by 5.5 kg/head over the last 5 years. That has added over \$550 per head in value – all again via genetic selection.” The Suzutanis possess the rare ability to increase eye muscle area and marble score all in one package. DeBruin then adds “in that time (5 yrs), improvement to the cow herd alone, as a result of genetic selection has included increased HSCW by 7.1pc, increased rib eye area by 7.4pc, increased marble score by 17pc and reduced age of slaughter by 24pc.” Mayura Station’s focus on breeding for these traits has given them a significant increase in profitability. Similarly, the Suzutanis strength in eye muscle area and marble score has put them in a position to help improve the profitability of herds around the globe.

Every mating made to Suzutani has yielded a successful proven sire. In Australia TWA Shikikan, a Takazakura son of Suzutani has 997 registered progeny. He has the most registered progeny of any Suzutani son in Australia and his breed plan EBVs say he excels in marble score at +1.4. This gives him a still impressive Terminal Carcass Index of +\$216. Shikikan also maintains positive growth figures which is growth that he likely inherits from his sire Takazakura. That combination of positive growth and marbling is what made him so widely used and why he can be found in so many pedigrees across Australia. However, even with his solid all round EBVs his Michifuku brother Kanadagene 100 has far superior breed plan EBVs, although on less offspring with only 257 registered progeny. Kanadagene has better growth traits with a +20 600-day weight and +27 mature cow weight. He combines his strong growth figures with outstanding carcass traits. He has a carcass weight of +14, an eye muscle area of +5.4, a marble fineness of +0.22, a beef retail yield of +1.0, and has a marble score of +1.2. The +14 carcass weight and +1.2 marble score give Kanadagene an astounding TCI of +314. These two sires have had an extreme influence in Australia with their widespread use and superior EBVs.

KANADAGENE 100 BREEDPLAN EBVS

May 2018 Wagyu GROUP BREEDPLAN															
	Gestation Length (days)	Birth Wt (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Carcass Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq cm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	Marble Score	Marble Fineness (%)	TCI
EBV	1.1	1.5	9	11	21	27	-8	-1.6	14	5.4	-0.2	1	1.2	0.22	\$314
Acc	83%	89%	91%	92%	93%	89%	89%	79%	88%	81%	83%	77%	81%	77%	
Breed Avg. EBVs for 2016 Born Calves															
EBV	0.2	1.0	9.0	14.0	18.0	19.0	1.0	0.0	12.0	0.7	0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.12	\$150

While across the globe in the U.S.A., it was Suzutani sons Sanjirou and Shigeshigetani that have been more influential. It is worth noting that these two sires received extensive use in Australia too, however Sanjirou produced inferior EBVs to his full brother Kanadagene in growth and Shigeshigetani produced just average EBVs. Sanjirou, again another Michifuku out of Suzutani, has 571 registered offspring in the U.S.A. Data from Washington State University's 2017 Sire Summary still ranks Sanjirou as 9th in marbling with an EPD at +0.48 and 63% reliability. Sanjirou ranks 3rd in rib eye area at +2.16 on 25 progeny, 8th in external fat at -0.03, and his only weakness is growth - ranking 4th from last in hot carcass weight at -35.13 on 25 carcasses. His half-brother Shigeshigetani (616 registered progeny in the U.S.A.), a Haruki 2 son of Suzutani does not have any EPDs on the WSU Sire Summary. However, he does have a few high-ranking sons on the 2017 summary, including the likes of Bar R Shigeshigetani 30T, CHR Shigeshigetani 5, and Bar R Shigeshigetani 54Y. The same can be said of Sanjirou with sons in Bar R Sanjirou 4P, Michiyoshi, Bar R Dbl Suzutani 50T, Bar R Dbl Suzutani 59T, and Bar R Nakagishiro 56T. This is before even mentioning Sanjirou 3's recent ascent to the #1 rank on WSU's marbling EPD, albeit on a limited number of progeny. Sanjirou and Shigeshigetani can be found in pedigrees across the states and have had success siring top ranking sons on the WSU Sire Summary. For these reasons they are easily the most influential Suzutani sons in the U.S.A. some impressive all around numbers from +20 Mat cow wt to +4.3 EMA and +1.2 MS. Full brothers Longford 005 and Longford 004 have put up some extraordinary carcass figures. They both are Kitateruyasudo x Michifuku x the Kanadagene 102D cow. It is no surprise then they have MS of +1.9 & +2.0, EMA of +3.9 & +4.6. These promising sires show a bright future for the Suzutanis.

The Suzutani maternal line is making an impact today with younger next-generation sires. Direct maternal descendants of Suzutani up to five generations away are being used and showing their superior genetics. These include Australian sires Longford 004, Longford 005, Westholme Kitaitonami, and Goshu Kitawaki, Sher Shigesuzu A303, Southern Cross Shigeshigeyasu, and Samurai Farms Michizuru to name a few. They all have a high TCI although



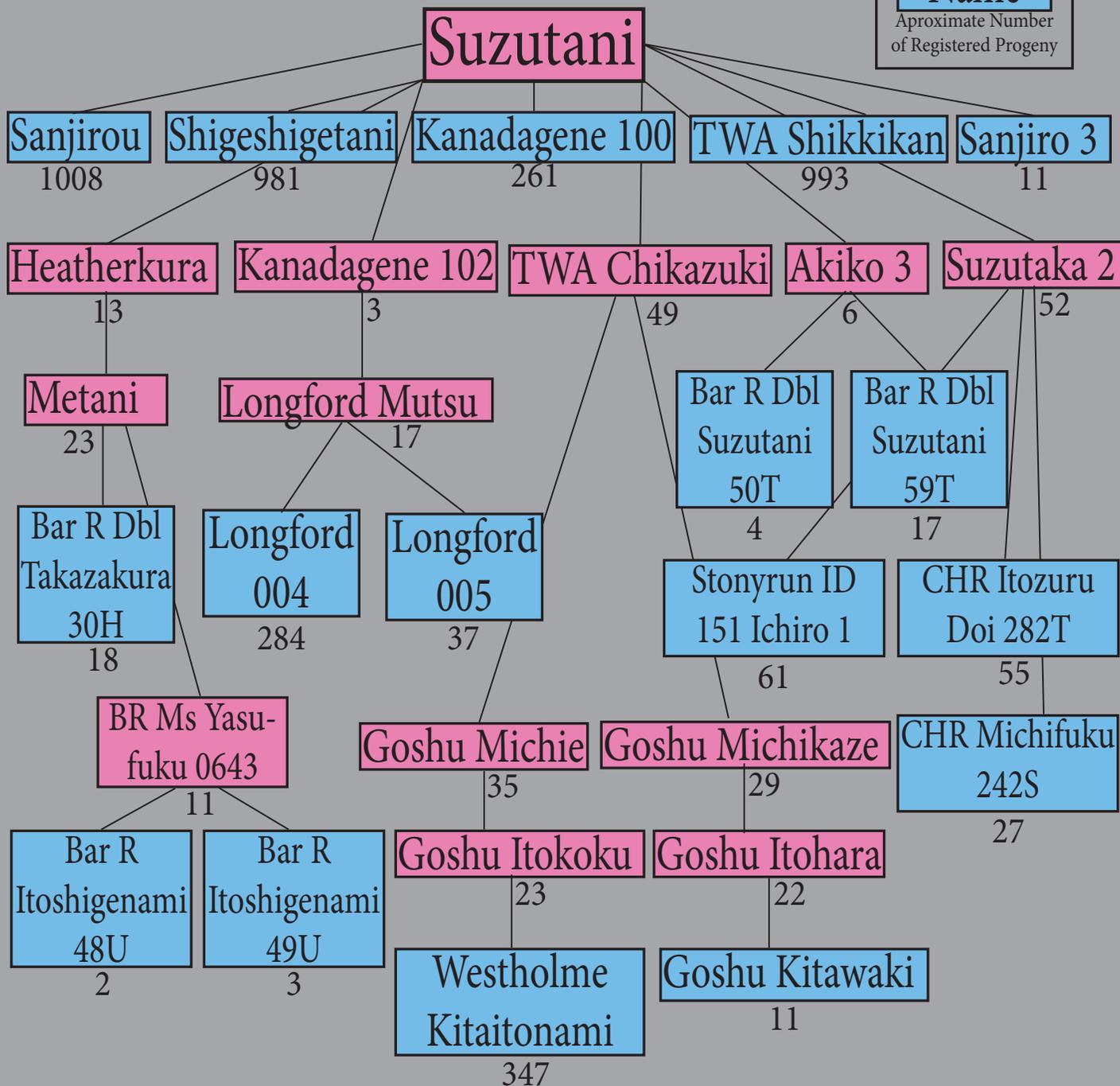
with varying degrees of progeny data. In addition, they have combined to sire more than 600 registered progeny. Westholme Kitaitonami is a Kitaguni Jr x Itoshigenami x Michifuku x the TWA Chikazuki cow and has a TCI of \$387. On top of that he has 349 registered offspring with impressive carcass EBVs of +2.2 MS, +2.2 EMA, and +0.39 MF. Samurai Farms Michizuru is a Michifuku x TF 151 x Hirashigetayasu x Michifuku x TWA Chikazuki and has a TCI of \$306 with 2 carcass progeny. He possesses some impressive all-around numbers from +20 Mat cow wt to +4.3 EMA and +1.2 MS. Full brothers Longford 005 and Longford 004 have shown some extraordinary carcass figures. They both are Kitateruyasudoï x Michifuku x the Kanadagene 102D cow. It is no surprise then they have MS of +1.9 and +2.0, EMA of +3.9 and +4.6. These promising sires show a bright future for the Suzutani maternal line.

Meanwhile in the U.S.A., younger sires Bar R Dbl Takazakura 30H, Hoh Kiatani 25Y, Bar R Dbl Suzutani 50T, Bar R Dbl Suzutani 59T, and Bar R Itoshigenami 48U are yielding great EBV results in the WSU Sire Summary. In addition, unproven sires CHR Itozuru Doi 282T, Stonyrun ID 151 Ichiro 1, and CHR Michifuku 242S have seen extensive use with 55, 61, and 26 registered progeny respectively. On the WSU 2017 Sire Summary, full brothers Bar R Dbl Suzutani 50T and Bar R Dbl Suzutani 59T have made an impressive impression. On the marble score EPD they both rank just ahead of the famous 30T bull with 0.35 and 0.34 EPDs on 33 and 49 carcasses. In the rib eye muscle area category 50T ranks 8th with an EPD of 2.01. Hoh Kiatani 25Y has a great marble score EPD of 0.46 on 26 carcasses: ranking him 10th just behind the legendary Sanjirou himself. Bar R Itoshigenami 48U ranks 7th in marble score with an impressive 0.51 EPD on 34 carcasses. In the external fat category Bar R Dbl Takazakura 30H ranks 4th with an EPD of -0.06. These next generation bulls are performing in all the carcass categories with the exception of hot carcass weight. However, there is a lot of purebred competition in hot carcass weight on the WSU Sire Summary.

On the female side, the Suzutanis have produced many prolific donor dams. Females have been successful in producing large numbers of embryos, making numerous live

FAMILY TREE

Key
Name
 Approximate Number
 of Registered Progeny



Suzutani May 2018

May 2018 Wagyu GROUP BREEDPLAN															
	Gestatio n Length (days)	Birth Wt (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Carcase Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq cm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	Marble Score	Marble Fineness (%)	TCI
EBV	0.1	-0.9	-1	-7	-9	-2	-10	-1.4	-13	4.1	-3.2	1.3	1.1	0.06	\$174
Acc	79%	84%	84%	84%	84%	81%	79%	75%	82%	77%	78%	74%	78%	75%	
Breed Avg. EBVs for 2016 Born Calves															
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offspring. Moreover, females from the Suzutani have produced success on the individual level with sons possessing EBVs and EPDs that rank among the elite in the Wagyu breed. The ability of a cow to flush well or respond well to IVF plays an immense role in whether or not a maternal line sees both widespread use and success. This is simply because embryo transfer provides more offspring than a cow could normally produce through natural calvings in her lifetime. Therefore, with more progeny there are increased opportunities to hit the best genetic combinations producing superior offspring. One can frequently come across Suzutani females with 30 or 40 registered offspring and here are a few examples of these fantastic donor dams. The Longford Mutsu cow has 17 registered progeny including proven sons Longford 004 and 005. Suzutaka 2, a Takazakura out of Suzutani has approximately 52 registered offspring between the U.S. and Australia. TWA Chikazuki has 49 registered progeny including daughters Goshu Michie and Goshu Michiekaze with 35 and 29 registered progeny respectively. The bottom line is this maternal line produces well in embryo transfer programs, which is an invaluable asset.

Extreme carcass traits including large rib eye area, high marble scores, and high marble fineness are what originally put Suzutani on the map. This ability was proven through sons Sanjirou, Shigshigetani, Kanadagene, and Shikikan. The females from this line flush outstandingly well and

have longevity built in producing throughout their lifetimes. This line is still producing EBV and EPD leaders around the globe. These are the reasons the Suzutani are sought after worldwide. Breeders working with these cows are producing the next generation of legendary sires of sons and donor dams!

Reference

Goodwin, Shan. (18 May 2018). Breeding and feeding for top results at Mayura. Retrieved from <https://www.farmonline.com.au/story/5408368/breeding-and-feeding-for-top-results-at-mayura/>

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