

## Crossbreeding

F1 (or Crossbred Wagyu) breeders might want to focus on Tajima bloodlines. While Wagyu are known as “The Marbling Breed,” Tajima bulls are the most highly marbling — therefore the Tajima influence is especially helpful for Crossbred cattle. Though the Tajima genetics produce a smaller calf, crossing the signature marbling and quality of a Tajima bull with the larger frame typical of an Angus cow will make for both marbling as well as size. The best known (and most accessible to US breeders) of the Tajima line:

- Fukutsuru J068 • Michifuku • Sanjirou • Yasufuku Jr.
- Itoshigenami TF148 • Kitateruyasudoi ETJ003
- Shigeshigenami • LMR Yojimbo • JVP Kikuyasu 40

## Fullblood Breeding

Marbling is also beneficial for Fullblood Wagyu breeders — but feed efficiency and size need to be considered. Otherwise, Fullblood Wagyu will feed out highly marbled, but smaller framed than desired. In general, breeders should be careful not to place too much emphasis on only one trait or one characteristic — a balance of attributes will lead to a better herd.

In an over-simplified statement: Fullblood breeders need to add size to their Tajima bloodlines, or they need to add marbling to their larger framed cattle. This is called “rotational breeding” — in Takeda’s terminology: “Modoshi Kohai.”

A list of the larger framed bulls (those most accessible to US breeders), of both the Kedaka and Fujiyoshi-Itozakura lines follows:

- Itohana 2 • Itomichi 1-2 • Itoshigefuji TF147
- Hirashigetayasu ETJ001 • Kikuhana • Kitaguni Jr.
- LMR Toshiro 1-3

### NOTES:

GeneSTAR and other DNA tests are good marketing tools — but all breeding decisions should not be based on that one tool. Consider the whole animal.

Itozurudoi TF151 was a composite Itozakura and Tajima bull — a prized and widely admired bull bred by Shogo Takeda. He is deceased and no known semen exists at this time.



## Lone Mountain Cattle Company

The Lone Mountain Cattle Company is a Fullblood Wagyu breeding operation located in Golden, New Mexico at Lone Mountain Ranch. Our goal is to create the best possible genetics of Fullblood Wagyu, and to be a leading U.S. Wagyu producer. By focusing on genetics, our long-range goal is to establish a Fullblood Wagyu herd of 250 to 300 breeding cows. Superior genetics are the key to taking our herd and yours Beyond Prime.

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## Breeding Wagyu



# Breeding Wagyu

This is a somewhat complicated subject, especially due to the unfamiliarity of the breed to most Westerners, not to mention the use of Japanese in the naming traditions. But only by understanding the Wagyu bloodlines and the qualities that each bloodline carries with it can we capitalize on the outstanding meat quality possible through skillful breeding.

Traditionally, the Japanese have used linebreeding to produce great bulls and cows much more than Australian or American Wagyu breeders. While linebreeding is different from inbreeding — an inbreeding coefficient of less than 25% is tolerable — westerners have shied away from linebreeding for fear of negative inbreeding results.

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# Bloodlines and Their Notable Qualities

There are three major bloodlines of Wagyu — Tajima, Fujiyoshi, and Kedaka — and each differs in size, marbling quality, and maternal abilities.

Tajima — Medium/Small Size; Excellent Marbling; Average Maternal:

- JVP Fukutsuru 068
- Michifuku
- Sanjirou
- Shigesigetani
- Yasufuku J930
- Yasufuku Jr.
- Itoshigenami TF148
- Kikutsurudoï TF146
- JVP Kikuyasudoï 400
- Kitateruyasudoï (ETJ 003) J2810

Fujiyoshi — Large Size; Good Marbling; Excellent Maternal:

- Dai 7 Itozakura
- Kitaguni 7-8 J1530
- Kitaguni Jr.
- TF Itohana 2
- TF Itomichi 1-2
- Itoshigefuji TF147
- Itozurudoï TF151

Kedaka — Large Size; Good Marbling; Excellent Maternal:

- Dai 20 Hirashige
- Hirashigetayasu (ETJ 001) J2351
- Hirashigekatsu

## Takeda's Rotational Breeding

The master breeder, Shogo Takeda, began breeding Wagyu over 50 years ago and has developed a diagram based on the genetic makeup of bulls. To simplify the approach, he would say that bulls are divided into 4 basic groups: A, B, C & D. Takeda's method is to take a female created by an "A" bull and mate her to a "B" bull — and to take a female created by a "B" bull and mate her to a "C" bull, etc. See diagram:

**GROUP A — (FUJIYOSHI - ITOZAKURA LINES):**  
Large size, good marbling, excellent maternal sire.

**GROUP B — (HIGH TAJIMA):**  
Small size, best marbling, poor maternal sire.

**GROUP C — (KEDAKA — ITOZAKURA LINE):**  
Large size, good marbling, excellent maternal sire.

**GROUP D — (HIGH TAJIMA):** Medium size, better marbling, average maternal sire.

