

Field Education Center for Learning Links between Food and the Environment

We provide field-based education programs for **learning link between food and the environment**. The programs are open to students from other university

Joint Usage/Education Center

The aim of Joint Usage/Education Centers is to provide a high level of education and research at the university level by effectively utilizing the human and physical resources of individual universities in order to address the diverse needs of society and students. The system is designed to facilitate the joint use of facilities among universities by designating universities throughout Japan as joint-usage centers in specific fields. The Kawatabi Field Center was approved by the Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology as a Joint Usage/Education Center (for the period 2011–2020). It has been designated as a "Field Educational Center for Learning on Links between Food and the Environment" and its field education programs are open to students from other universities.

Kawatabi Field Center

• Extensive field area

Tohoku University's Kawatabi Field Center is the largest university-affiliated farm in Japan. Its extensive field area, measuring 2,200 ha, ranges from mountainous terrain to lowlands and comprises multiple zones that include forests, grasslands and farming land to suit the topography. These features make it unique in Japan.

• Highly specialized

A total of 12 teaching staff are stationed at the Field Center and it also employs many technical personnel from different specialties. In addition to individual farming-related skills backed by a high level of specialist knowledge, it is designed to enable students to experience the complex multiplicity of ecosystems that make up the food-production environment, including cropland, grassland and forests, and to see in a single field how water and nutrients are recycled and living organisms interact through these.

Forest



Livestock management



Integrated terrestrial field



Cropland



Resource recycling

A field that integrates multiple differing ecosystems, such as farmland and forest land

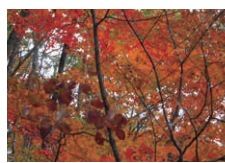
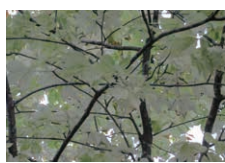
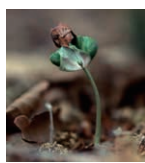
Comments of students

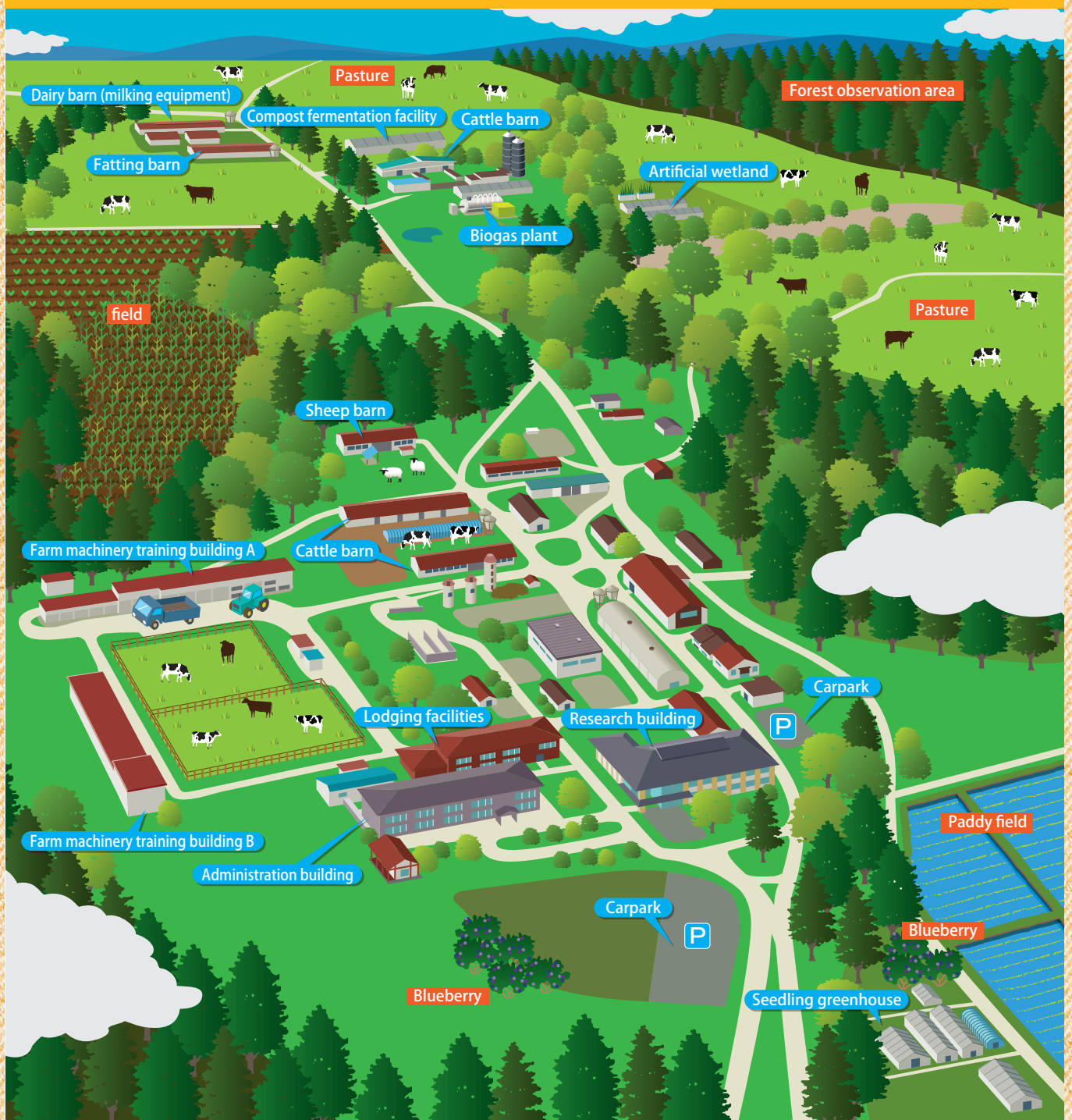
I saw organically and conventionally grown rice with my own eyes and was amazed at the differences in terms of color and panicles, the presence of weeds and so on.

I knew that cuddly cows are raised to be eaten, but after seeing them with my own eyes and hearing about them, I realized I should be more grateful for what I have to eat.

The experience of seeing and touching brought home to me the blessing of food. I felt I needed to take another look at the everyday things that I have been taking for granted and to think again about the water, soil and other things in the environment that are essential for food production.

Seeing and experiencing the various things that link up to form the natural ecosystem taught me how interesting and important living things and the environment are.





Access map



Transportation

Rail From Tohoku Shinkansen Furukawa Station, take the JR Rikuu East Line bound for Naruko Onsen and get off at Kawatabi Onsen Station. From there, it is about a 30-minute walk.

Car Exit the Tohoku Expressway at the Furukawa IC and travel about 40 minutes on National Road 47 in the direction of Naruko Onsen.

Bus From the bus stop in front of Sendai Station, take the highway bus bound for Naruko and get off at Kawatabi Onsen (travel time 75 minutes). From there, it is about a 35-minute walk.

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