



## Summer Festivals in Yonezawa



During the summer, many exciting festivals (or matsuri) are held throughout Yonezawa.  
Come and enjoy the many summertime celebrations!

### ○Onogawa Firefly Festival

Many events are held in the Onogawa area during this time when several thousand fireflies can be seen.

Date: June 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat)~July 31<sup>st</sup> (Sat)

Firefly Viewing: 20:00~21:00 (best time)

Place: Onogawa Hot Spring area



### ○Yonezawa Waterside Fireworks Festival

Over 5,000 fireworks are set off and beautifully reflect off the water above the moat of the Matsugasaki Park.

Date: August 6<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

Time: 19:30~21:00

Place: Moat of Matsugasaki Park  
(Uesugi Shrine area)



### ○Hydrangea & Safflower Festival

Over 2,000 hydrangeas beautifully bloom around the Sasano Kannon Temple around this time. Locally grown safflowers will be given as a gift on this day.

Date: July 19<sup>th</sup> (Mon/Holiday)

Time: 8:00~16:00

Place: Sasano Craft Center ~ Sasano Kannon Temple



### ○Yonezawa Beef Festival

Enjoy delicious Yonezawa beef and overcome the summer heat!

Date: August 6<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

Time: 18:00~

Place: Along the Matsukawa Riverbank  
(near the Yonezawa City Hospital)



Cost: 15,000 yen (Sukiyaki set for 4 people)

\*Tickets must be purchased in advance

Tickets Available At: Onuma Yonezawa Store,

Yonezawa Saty, Yonezawa City Hall 1F

Limit: 280 Tickets -Available from July 4<sup>th</sup> (Sun)

Inquiries: City Agricultural Division TEL 22-5111

### ○Tohoku Fireworks Festival

Over 3,000 fireworks light up the night sky in this annual event.

Date: July 30<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

Time: 19:30~21:00

Place: Along the Matsukawa Riverbank  
(near the Yonezawa City Hospital)



### ○Atago Fire Festival

Over 500 people carry torches and portable shrines at night in a parade up Mt. Atago located in the South-western part of the city.

Date: August 1<sup>st</sup> (Sun)

Time: Torch Parade 18:20~

Fire Festival: 18:20~21:00

Place: Atago Shrine and Jizo-En



## City Pool Now Open!



Dates: June 20<sup>th</sup> (Sun)~Aug 31<sup>st</sup> (Tue)

Hours: Mornings-9:00~12:00 Afternoons- 13:00~17:00

\* Open from 9:00~21:00 between July 20<sup>th</sup> (Tue)~Aug 20<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

Cost: Elementary & Jr. High School Students 100 yen/  
High School Students 210 yen / General 310 yen  
(For each session in the morning, afternoon, and evening)

Other: Please make sure to wear a swimming cap.

The Pool may be closed to the public when there are competitions.

Inquiries: City Pool TEL 24-5833

## Did You Know ? ?

### Tanabata

July 7<sup>th</sup> is the Tanabata Star Festival, a traditional Japanese summer festival. In some areas, this event is held on August 7<sup>th</sup> or on July 7<sup>th</sup> of the lunar calendar.

Tanabata is based on a Chinese legend in which Kengyu (the star Altar) meets Orihime (the star Vega) only once a year on this day over the Milky Way, and an ancient Japanese legend called the Tanabata-tsume. On this day, people put up big branches of bamboo and decorate them with many colorful decorations and strips of paper with wishes written on them. In various cities in Japan including Sendai and Hiratsuka (in Kanagawa Prefecture), Tanabata is also celebrated by beautifully decorating the main streets with many bamboo branches. A large Tanabata festival was also celebrated in Yonezawa until 1962.



# About Foot-And-Mouth Disease

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Miyazaki prefecture has caused serious damage to livestock farmers in that area. How is Yonezawa, famous for its Yonezawa beef, dealing with this outbreak?

## What is foot- and-mouth disease?

Foot-and-mouth disease is disease that infects animals such as cows, pigs, and sheep. The disease is highly contagious and livestock that are infected are required by law to be killed.

## Can humans be infected?

Humans will not be infected with foot-and-mouth disease even if they eat beef or pork, or drink milk. All livestock that are infected with the disease are killed so the meat of infected animals will not make its way into the markets. (including livestock who were inoculated with the vaccination for foot-and-mouth disease.)

## Are livestock in Yonezawa ok?

Currently there are no reports of livestock in Yonezawa being infected by foot-and-mouth disease.

## How is Yonezawa dealing with the situation?

Local livestock farmers have been given calcium hydroxide as antiseptics. In addition, people have been discouraged from visiting local livestock farmers and pastures.

## How can I support Takanabe Town in Miyazaki Prefecture which is Yonezawa's sister city?

A donation box has been set up on the first floor of the City Hall and at each community center. Please help with the efforts to raise money to assist with the damages caused by foot-and-mouth disease.

## Other Events & Information

### ○Machi No Hiroba (Town Square) Events

Morning Market: Every Sunday in July 6:00~7:00  
Flea Market: Every Sunday in July 9:00~15:00  
Inquiries: City Commerce Division TEL 22-5111

### ○Yonezawa Traditional Japanese Song/Dance Festival

When: 7/18 (Sun) 12:30~  
Where: Denkoku No Mori (Okitama Bunka Hall)  
Cost: Free (Numbered entry ticket required)  
Inquiries: Yonezawa Minyo Kenkyuka TEL 23-1112

### ○Y-1 Gourmet Competition- City Beer Party

When: 7/19 (Mon/Holiday) 11:00~20:00  
Where: Machi No Hiroba  
Content: Popular local restaurants will be competing with each other with special dishes made using local products. Participants will vote for the winner after trying out and comparing the dishes.  
Cost: Please purchase an 1,000 yen-worth ticket in advance.  
Inquiries: Yonezawa Chamber of Commerce & Industry Youth Group TEL 21-5111

### ○Circus Acoustic Concert

When: 8/4 (Wed) 19:00~  
Where: Denkoku No Mori Okitama Bunka Hall  
Cost: 5,000 yen (5,500 for tickets bought at-the-door)  
Tickets Available At: Onuma Yonezawa Store, Saty, Yonezawa Gakki-ten, Ongaku Azm-kan, Denkoku No Mori  
Inquiries: Denkoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) Information



### YIRA Cafe Special Event Potluck Party

Bring a dish to share with everyone and come and enjoy casual international exchange! This will be CIR Daniel Smiley's last YIRA Café. He will be showing a slide show to share his memories of his five years in Yonezawa.

When: 7/9 (Fri) 12:00~14:00  
Where: Okitama Sogo Bunka Center 3F  
Cost: Free \* Please bring one dish for 3~5 people (Any simple dish is ok, including desserts or drinks) and your own chopsticks, plate, and cup.

**Sign Ups/Inquiries:** YIRA Office  
TEL 22-5111 Email: [yira@omn.ne.jp](mailto:yira@omn.ne.jp)  
Home Page: <http://www.omn.ne.jp/~yira>

***If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:***

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