

Traditional Haystacks in the Grassland



Aso Region GIAHS Promotion Association
~ The Haystacks Restoration Project ~

The haystacks are located at point ①~⑧ on the map below,
and will be seen from Nov.2025 to Feb.2026.

① Grassland near Daikanbo

Located on the south side of the Milk Road near Daikanbo.
Made by residents of Okura and Nishi-okura districts.
© Available



② Near Shiroyama Observatory

(Along the Yamanami Highway)
A short drive from Shiroyama Observatory toward Kuju, it's on the right. Made by members of Sanga Grassland Union.
© Available



③ Grassland near Hakoishi Pass

Located on the grassland at Hakoishi Observatory.
Made by Machikoga Grassland Union and local partners.
© Available



④ Grassland along Route 265

Located along National Route 265 connecting Aso City and Takamori Town. Made by the two local farmers.
© None



⑤ Grassland of Nojiri

Located in a grassland facing a town road of Takamori. Made by the NPO Aso Flower Field Association in collaboration with a partner company and a university.
© Available



⑧ Moenosato Parking Lot

Located near the Nami statue, facing to the gravel parking lot.
Made by the members of Komori Grassland Union.
© Available



⑦ Minamiaso Sakura Park

Located in a corner of the park adjacent to Aspecta.
Enjoy viewing them alongside cherry blossoms in spring. Made by members of Minamiaso Sakura Park Management Union.
© Available



⑥ Rakuda-Yama

Located across the road from Tsukimawari Park, at the foot of Rakuda-Yama. Made by members of Murayama Grassland Union.
© None



Please enjoy the scenery with the haystacks after you've safely pulled over.
For disease prevention, unauthorized entry into grasslands (pasture areas) is prohibited.

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☎0967-32-3500

This is the **Traditional Haystack** in the Aso Grassland !



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Several decades ago, haystacks were everywhere in the Autumn grasslands.

Haystacks are piles of grass cut from autumn pastures, dried, bundled, and stacked high.

This traditional method of preserving grass allowed farmers to bring hay back to the village as needed for winter feed and bedding for cattle kept in barns.



But now, they are almost gone...

as the number of cattle has declined, reducing the demand for hay, and with the larger mowers and improved transportation, the necessity for farmers to make haystacks has diminished. Consequently, opportunities to see them have become scarce, and fewer people know how to make them.



How to make them...



Cut the grass and dry it to make hay.



Bundle the hay.



Stack the bunches.
Totally 48~60 bunches.



Make a roof with the grass.



Spread the roof to cover.



Fix the roof on the top.
Done!



What makes them so special?

100% natural materials !

The hay is made of diverse native plants, and the ropes used to bind the hay are made of rice straw. The roof is also made of Japanese pampas grass and bamboo or kudzu vines secure the roof.

Rain / Snow proof !

Rain and snow run off the roof and grass surface, keeping the hay inside dry and well-preserved throughout the Winter.

The Haystacks Restoration Project is underway to create landscapes characteristic of Aso and preserve the culture of the grasslands.