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Sakai Plains, Home to Koshihikari Rice

Sakai-cho, Sakai City; Others

At each of the 8 Echizen Railway stations between Nakatsuno Station crossing the Kūzuryū River to Awara Onsen Station, August passengers need only look out the window to enjoy a seemingly endless view of golden fields as their train makes its way across the Sakai Plains...



A plentiful harvest on the Sakai Plains



Sakai Plains after rice planting^①

The Sakai Plains are home to koshihikari rice, whose name comes from its wide regards as the “shining light of Echizen,” symbolizes Fukui’s rice culture. Planting is carried out in May, and as fall grows closer the fields become awash in a soft golden color that glows in the evening sun. Gentle breezes blowing across the plain whisper as they pass through the ride fields.

In response to consumer demand, Fukui Prefecture has also become a leading producer of wheats grains. Inesu, a local roadside station, throngs with visitors as rice and vegetables grown on the plains come to market for direct sale. Before the fall harvest, the summer months welcome scarecrow contests, in which farming families enter their own unique scarecrows and enjoy a reprieve from toiling in the fields. Once the rice has been gathered, stalks drying in the sun dot the landscape offer a similar yet subtly different golden glow to that of the koshihikari fields throughout the months of May and June.



Rice stalks drying in the sun



Wheat harvest^②



Taking a rest during rice planting



Inesu Roadside Station (Kuragaichi, Sakai-cho, Sakai City)



Scarecrow contest entries^③



Photos①~③ courtesy of Sakai City