

Search

Home > News

PRINT E-MAIL

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Curbs on produce to be changed

Kyodo News

The government decided Monday to alter the way it restricts farm produce tainted by radioactive fallout from the crippled Fukushima No. 1 power plant.

In response to the fallout, the government restricted shipments of farm products from four nearby prefectures. But the restrictions will now be imposed on a town-by-town basis instead of blanketing the whole prefecture, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said at a news conference.

In addition to breaking down the coverage into smaller areas, Edano said the government will lift the current curbs imposed on each item if they stay below the safety limit for three straight weeks.

With the latest change of rules, Edano said the government has ordered that shipments of spinach and other vegetables from three municipalities in Chiba Prefecture be stopped.

Some local governments have called for easing restrictions on radiation levels allowed in food, saying the tentative levels set by the health ministry after the nuclear crisis emerged are too conservative.

The advisory panel to the ministry's Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau concluded that the consumption limit levels should be maintained until the leak of radioactive materials at the nuclear plant is contained.

The Food Safety Commission and the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency also consider the tentative limits appropriate.

On March 21, the government ordered the suspension of some farm product shipments from Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma prefectures after radioactive contamination exceeding limits was confirmed in some vegetables.

The leak of radioactive materials into the air and nearby sea water, caused by crippled cooling systems at the Fukushima plant's reactors, has also affected tap water.

The panel also recommended that the health ministry and relevant government organizations inform the public more about health concerns by providing easy-to-understand information.

PRINT

E-MAIL

Tweet 0

Like 0

We welcome your opinions. Click to send a message to the editor.

The Japan Times
(C) All rights reserved

Article 5 of 7 in National news
◀ Previous Next ▶



japantimes Eye problems from unauthorized lash extension services on the increase in Japan - [ow.ly/dun9M](#)
28 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

japantimes Japan looking to maintain high standards as Brazil beckons - [ow.ly/dvbki](#)
about 1 hour ago · reply · retweet · favorite

japantimes Abe in crowded field vying for LDP helm - [ow.ly/dvbkf](#)
2 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

japantimes Soil & "Pimp" Sessions, Jaga Jazzist and Bruut! challenge jazz's conservative image - [ow.ly/dvbkh](#)
2 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Join the conversation

Poll Most read stories Editors' picks

A piece of your mind

Scared or prepared?

The government [upped its casualty estimate for a killer quake-tsunami combo](#) by more than a factor of 10. What's your take?

- Forewarned is forearmed. This information will save lives.**
- All this does is scare people. It's not helpful.**
- It's inspired me to think more seriously about possible evacuation routes.**
- Numbers like these aren't much more than a guess.**

VOTE

Total Votes : 1594

[View past polls](#)

[Back to top](#) ▲

[About us](#) | [Work for us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Link policy](#) | [Registration FAQ](#)

[Advertise](#) in [japantimes.co.jp](#).

This site has been optimized for modern browsers. Please make sure that Javascript is enabled in your browser's preferences.
The Japan Times Ltd. All rights reserved.