

[Home > News](#)

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Saturday, April 9, 2011

Safe Fukushima produce get nod

Kyodo News

The government will allow shipments of produce from areas near the crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant that prove safe enough to consume, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said Friday.

The restrictions on raw milk from Kitakata and six other towns in Fukushima Prefecture, and spinach and "kakina" leafy vegetable in Gunma Prefecture will be lifted, Edano told reporters.

The six towns are Bandai, Inawashiro, Mishima, Aizumisato, Shimogo and Minamiaizu.

The government had restricted shipments of some farm products from Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki and Tochigi prefectures following the release of radioactive particles from the tsunami-stricken nuclear plant.

The government, however, changed the way in which it applies such restrictions earlier this week, now imposing them on a town-by-town basis and making it a condition that each product will not be banned if radioactivity data stay below safety limits for a third straight week.

The government, meanwhile, will restrict farmers from planting rice near the nuclear complex.

The farm ministry said rice should not be grown if 1 kg of soil in a paddy field contains more than 5,000 becquerels of radioactive cesium.

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Article 9 of 12 in National news
 Previous Next

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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.**

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