

## **Food Sales Banned in DPRK Markets**

In anticipation of spoiling food during the summer months, North Korea has passed a measure banning the sale of some food items in markets from July 1.

According to the Seoul-based North Korea human rights organization Good Friends, “As much food spoils in the summer season, North Korea has banned the sale of food in traditional markets from July 1 in order to prevent outbreaks of colitis and food poisoning.” This means that some food items are only available in approved stores or government-run outlets.

As market operating times are limited during the rice planting season as every available worker is mobilized to the fields, much food goes bad on the shelves before it can be sold. Good Friends reported that during sanitation inspections carried out by government officials, discoveries ranged from eggs displayed past their expiration date to finding red pepper powder cut with brick dust, raising a serious issue of ‘fake food’ sales.

Some of the items currently being sold on the markets in North Korea include tofu, sausage, walleye, octopus, dog, trout, eggs, carp, seaweed, pickled shrimp, alcohol, lemons, fernbake, and juice.

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