Wildlife and Animal Management Overview

To minimize food safety risks associated with wild and domestic animals, every farm should:

- Identify and assess risks posed by wild and domestic animals.
- Consider methods to prevent and minimize animal entry through the use of fences, noise cannons, or other deterrents.
- Reduce or eliminate animal attractants such as standing water, cull piles, and nesting areas.
- Monitor and document animal activity in the field.
- Conduct field assessments prior to harvest.
- Train all workers to follow company policies regarding monitoring animal activity and proper harvest procedures.

Summary

Wild and domestic animals are a food safety concern because they can carry human pathogens in their feces and can spread contamination around fields as they move.

Animals are a natural part of the farm environment, so complete exclusion is not possible. It is still important to limit their access to fields to reduce the risks of contamination from pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *E.coli O157:H7*, and *Campylobacter jejuni* since these pathogens have all been found in animals.

In addition to direct contamination of the crop in the field, it is important to recognize that animal feces could also contaminate water sources used during production, leading to cross-contamination of crops. Large numbers of animals (i.e., flocks of geese, herds of deer, or a large scale cattle operation) represent the biggest risks because they produce large amounts of fecal matter that could enter fields through water runoff, airborne particles, cross-contamination from insects, or by contaminating water sources used during production.

Although dogs and cats may be considered family members and may be used as deterrents to wildlife, they also have the potential to harbor pathogenic microorganisms. Family pets should be kept out of the packinghouse, production fields, and vehicles carrying fresh produce, especially close to harvest. While it is unreasonable to expect complete animal exclusion in the field and packinghouse, steps to identify and minimize their presence should be taken.

Conduct a risk assessment to identify risks posed by wild and domestic animals

Before each season, every farm should identify and assess the risk of wildlife and domestic animal presence in or near fruit and vegetable fields. Proximity to wooded areas or water sources that attract wildlife should be a consideration. Any domestic animals, such as grazing cattle, chickens, or other farm animals, may pose a risk of contamination if runoff occurs from their feces or bedding areas into production fields.

Prevent animal entry through the use of fences, noise cannons, and other deterrents

Animal controls and deterrents may be used when problems are identified or needed based on observations done on the farm. Decoys, such as plastic coyotes, owls, and swans, are effective if they are actively moved around the farm to deter wildlife. Noise makers can also be effective, but animals may become desensitized to the noise over time. Fencing can be an effective deterrent, but it may not be practical for larger farms; however, small portions of fencing may direct animals around high value or sensitive crops to other areas. Nuisance permits may be another option, but check with your local Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) or the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) before choosing this method.
Monitor and document animal activity in the field
Throughout the production season, take an active role in monitoring fields and packing areas for the presence of animals. Be sure to eliminate or properly manage any possible animal attractants such as cull piles, access to water, garbage cans, and dumpsters.

Incorporate monitoring into your day-to-day activities on the farm. Document your observations and look to see if there are patterns of animal presence throughout the season. Understanding patterns and seasonal changes in wildlife can help you prevent problems and deter animals from entering production areas.

Conduct field assessments prior to harvest
Before each harvest, an assessment of the field should be done to ensure that there are no obvious signs of animal intrusion or fecal contamination. If feces are found in the field or have come in direct contact with produce, this area should not be harvested. If a large amount of animal activity (i.e. tracks, damaged product) is found, the farm manager should be notified and an assessment of risk should be done to determine what action should be taken next and determine whether the produce is safe to harvest.\(^5\)

- **Option 1:** Flag feces or affected crop and do not harvest. Create a buffer zone so that workers will know what areas not to harvest. At minimum, the no-harvest buffer zone should have a 5 foot radius.\(^3\)

- **Option 2:** If feces or contaminated crop can easily be removed and the contamination is somewhat isolated, be sure to properly clean and sanitize all equipment used to remove contaminated produce or feces, as well as follow proper personal hygiene (i.e., hand washing) to reduce cross-contamination risks.

- **Option 3:** If fecal contamination or animal intrusion is extensive, do not harvest the field and/or disk the crop into the soil.

Train all workers to follow company policies regarding monitoring animal activity and proper harvest procedures
Field workers should be trained to recognize the risks associated with animal presence in or around the field as well as the presence of fecal contamination on fresh produce. If fecal material is found in the field, or has directly contaminated produce, workers need to understand how to create buffers and follow the farm policy for leaving or removing the contamination. Workers must also be instructed to wash their hands after handling contaminated produce or fecal material.

**References**

The information in the template food safety plan, SOPs, and recordkeeping logs are examples you can use. They are not intended to be used directly. Tailor each to fit your farm operation and practices. These documents are guidance for risk reduction and for educational use only. These documents are not regulatory and are not intended to be used as audit metrics. These documents are subject to change without notice based on the best available science.
Have you assessed animal access (including wildlife, livestock, and pets) to water sources, produce fields, and adjacent lands that may represent a risk of contamination to your crop prior to planting?

Yes

Animals and animal feces may contaminate produce if they are present in or near produce fields or water sources. Large numbers of animals represent the biggest risks because they can produce large amounts of fecal matter that may be deposited in fields or enter through water runoff, airborne particles, or by contaminating water sources.

Assessment of the food safety risks associated with animals may include:

- Identifying presence and location of grazing and feeding operations
- Identifying the type and approximate number of animals (domestic and wildlife)
- Observing activity patterns or seasonality of domestic animals and wildlife presence
- Evaluating topography of the land to assess for potential runoff

Are you monitoring for wildlife and domestic animal presence in your fields and production areas?

Yes

Monitoring for animal presence is critical because they can carry or spread human pathogens in their feces that may contaminate the crop. Monitor your fields for animal intrusion at least weekly, and more frequently close to harvest to identify problems, and take action to reduce risks.

No

Has there been significant physical evidence of animal intrusion into fields or production areas (e.g. downed fences, animal tracks, animal feces, crop destruction)?

Yes

Continue to monitor for animal presence and intrusion. Document any activity observed throughout the season, especially close to and during harvest.

No
Properly dispose of cull piles, and minimize other harborage areas that may attract unwanted animals. Construct fences, or devise methods to exclude, deter, or limit animal entry into the fields. This may also include elimination through nuisance animal permits.*

*Note—Co-management: Be sure to check local, state, and federal laws and regulations that protect endangered species and riparian habitat that may limit removal of vegetation or the construction of deterrent fences for wildlife corridors.

Have you taken actions to exclude, deter, or limit animal access to fields? No

Yes

Properly dispose of cull piles, and minimize other harborage areas that may attract unwanted animals. Construct fences, or devise methods to exclude, deter, or limit animal entry into the fields. This may also include elimination through nuisance animal permits.*

*Note—Co-management: Be sure to check local, state, and federal laws and regulations that protect endangered species and riparian habitat that may limit removal of vegetation or the construction of deterrent fences for wildlife corridors.

Have your workers been trained to look for and report animal intrusion or fecal contamination during production, harvest, and packing activities? No

Yes

All workers should be trained to identify the signs of animal intrusion, such as downed fences, crop damage, or presence of fecal material, and report any events to the supervisor while working on the farm. This is important because workers are usually in the field more often and are able to assess more fields than one person (owner or manager) alone.

Training should include:

- How to identify signs of wildlife intrusion (animal tracks, damaged product, downed fences, and the presence of fecal material).
- To whom they should report significant wildlife activity.
- What actions to take (e.g., not harvest product, establish buffer zones, proper removal of affected product, cleaning and sanitation of tools/equipment and hands).
- What should be documented and which recordkeeping logs need to be filled out.
A pre-harvest assessment of the growing fields focusing on domestic and wild animal intrusion should be completed prior to harvest. This will reduce the likelihood of harvesting a contaminated crop by assessing whether the crop has been contaminated. The presence of fecal material or indicators of animal intrusion, such as extensive tracks or crop destruction, should be assessed to determine the risk of crop contamination and if harvesting should begin.

Has significant animal activity or animal fecal material been found in close proximity to or in direct contact with the produce?

- Yes
  - Continue to monitor for animal presence and intrusion. Document any activity observed in the future, especially close to and during harvest.

- No
  - Has a pre-harvest assessment of the crops and fields been completed before each harvest to determine if there has been any significant animal activity that would alter harvest practices?

- No
  - No

- Yes
  - Yes
1. Do not harvest produce which is in contact with feces. Depending on the area affected, remove fecal material and affected product, disk the field, or take some other action to limit the risks of contaminating adjacent fields and produce. Be sure anyone involved in the removal process washes their hands and cleans and sanitizes all tools used in the clean-up.

2. If only a portion of the field is impacted, consider establishing a buffer zone* so produce in close proximity to the site(s) of contamination is not harvested. The buffer zone radius should be based on crop type, irrigation or water applications such as rain that may cause splash, and extent of fecal contamination. Buffer zone size varies so consult industry and research publications to determine the buffer that is right for your farm.

*Note—If fecal contamination is identified in the field, several guidance documents may help establish a buffer zone to only harvest product which is at low risk for being contaminated. A minimum no-harvest buffer zone radius of 5 feet from the contaminated produce or feces should be established. This buffer zone may be increased, depending on the crop (ground crop), climate (heavy rainfall increasing splash radius), and contamination event (large wet feces more likely to splash).4

Has documentation of animal activity management and monitoring been kept on file, including any corrective actions required to reduce the risk in the future?

Yes

A written record of animal management, monitoring, activity, or corrective actions should be kept on file. Documentation can help identify trends (such as time of year) that animal activity might be a problem, so practices that reduce risks can be put into place.

No

Finish
Sample SOP: Worker Training to Identify, Report, and Respond to Animal Activity and Fecal Contamination in Produce Production Areas

Revision: 3.0
Date: 07/16/2014

1—Purpose
Describes how workers are to identify, report, and respond to animal activity in produce production areas.

2—Scope
Applies to farm personnel including workers, owners, and managers.

3—Responsibility
Farm owners, managers, and workers must be able to recognize the signs of animal activity and take corrective actions to prevent the harvesting and packing of fresh produce.

4—Materials
- Worker training materials (videos, handouts, teaching notes)

5—Procedure
To be included in training programs for all workers and reviewed on an annual basis. Workers should:

A. Be able to identify signs of wildlife or domestic animal intrusion such as: downed fences, damaged product, presence of fecal material, animal tracks, or other indicators that the crop may be contaminated.

B. Be instructed to report any food safety concerns in the field or packing area to a designated person who can determine what corrective actions to take.

C. Workers should be instructed to NOT harvest or pack any product that is in close proximity to or in direct contact with fecal material.

D. Establish a buffer zone around any fecal material as designated by the farm food safety plan.

E. Follow procedures for proper removal and disposal of fecal material and contaminated product.

F. Be instructed to wash their hands with soap and water after handling contaminated product or fecal material.

G. Be instructed to wash and sanitize all tools, equipment, and other items that came into contact with or were used for the removal of contaminated product or fecal contamination.

1. If fecal contamination is identified in the field, it is recommended that a buffer zone around the contamination be established and that no product in the buffer zone be harvested. These buffer zones should be a minimum of a 5 foot radius from the contaminated crop or feces, depending on the crop type, climate, and contamination event.
Sample SOP: Pre-Plant Risk Assessment of Wildlife and Domestic Animal Activity In or Near Produce Growing Areas

Revision: 3.0
Date: 07/16/2014

1—Purpose
Describes how to identify and assess wildlife and domestic animal activity (e.g. tracks, trampling, rooting, feeding), feces, or harborages in produce fields that may pose a risk of contaminating fresh fruits and vegetables prior to planting or the start of the production season.

2—Scope
Applies to farm personnel including owners, and managers.

3—Responsibility
Prior to planting or at the start of the growing season, farm owners/managers must identify and assess potential food safety hazards associated with wildlife and domestic animal presence, feces, and nesting areas in an effort to prevent the contamination of produce.

4—Materials
Pre-plant Animal Activity Assessment Log

5—Procedure
To be completed prior to harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables to assess potential animal activity in or around production areas that may pose a risk of contamination to the crop.

Assessment should include, but is not limited to:

- Identifying the location of domestic animals, including pets and livestock, on your property as well as those on adjacent lands.

- Noting the wildlife present, their numbers (i.e. flocks, herds, or single animal) and any activity in or around fruit and vegetable production areas.

- Identifying the location of water sources used in production of fruits and vegetables in relation to wildlife and domestic animal activity (i.e. upstream, uphill, downwind, etc.).

- Outlining any actions that are being taken or that will be taken to prevent animal intrusion into fields during fruit and vegetable production.
1—Purpose
Describes how to monitor and manage wildlife and domestic animal activities that could result in contamination of fresh fruit and vegetables during the production season.

2—Scope
Applies to farm personnel including workers, owners, and managers.

3—Responsibility
Fields must be monitored throughout the production season and during harvest to identify wildlife and domestic animal activity that may pose a food safety risk to the crop. This responsibility can be designated to any farm personnel including workers, managers, or owners.

4—Materials
Wildlife and Domestic Animal Monitoring Log

5—Procedure
To be completed at least weekly during the production season and more frequently close to harvest. These activities can also be incorporated into daily activities on the farm.

Farm owners or managers must establish a monitoring program to identify any evidence of produce contamination due to wildlife and domestic animal activity throughout the production season and close to harvest.

A. Conduct periodic assessments of animal activity (presence, feces, or nesting areas) through the production season and record on the Wildlife and Domestic Animal Monitoring Log.
   - Monitor for domestic animal or wildlife activity that may affect the safety of produce crops.
   - Record monitoring activities such as the date, time, and location of your observations.
   - If animal activity is found, devise methods to deter, reduce, or eliminate wildlife or domestic animal activity in produce fields (e.g. constructing fences, using noise cannons, eliminating attractants such as cull piles, or other mitigation strategies) while keeping co-management and natural wildlife habitats in mind.
   - Refer to the SOP for Managing Wildlife and Domestic Animal Intrusion and Contamination if you determine there is a significant risk to the crop due to animal activity.

B. Train workers on how to recognize the signs of animal activity and take the correct actions to prevent the contamination of produce.
   - See SOP for Worker Training to Identify, Report, and Respond to Animal Activity in Produce Fields.
Sample SOP: Pre-Harvest Risk Assessment of Wildlife and Domestic Animal Activity in Produce Fields

Revision: 3.0
Date: 07/16/2014

1—Purpose
Describes how to assess risks that wildlife and domestic animal activity and fecal contamination may pose to contamination of the fresh produce crop prior to harvest.

2—Scope
Applies to farm workers including farm owners and managers.

3—Responsibility
Farm owners/managers must conduct a risk assessment prior to harvest to identify potential food safety hazards associated with wildlife and domestic animal activity in effort to prevent the contamination of fresh produce.

4—Materials
Pre-harvest Field Assessment Log

5—Procedure
To be completed prior to harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables to assess potential animal activity or fecal contamination in or around production areas that may pose a risk of contamination to the crop.

A. Conduct an assessment of risk prior to each harvest to determine if there is wildlife and domestic animal activity or contamination of product in the field. Refer to the Pre-Harvest Field Assessment Log.

B. Assessments should include, but are not limited to:
   • Determining if animals have been in the field (i.e., evidence of downed fences, damaged product, animal tracks, feces) and if fecal contamination is present.
   • Determining if fresh produce has been contaminated and if any corrective actions, such as buffer zones, need to be put into place.
   • Determining if harvest should proceed or if harvest practices should be modified.

C. Document your observations and actions prior to harvest in the Pre-Harvest Field Assessment Log.
Sample SOP: Managing Wildlife and Domestic Animal Intrusion and Contamination

Revision: 3.0
Date: 07/16/2014

1—Purpose
Describes how to manage wildlife and domestic animal intrusion and fecal contamination in fresh fruit and vegetable production areas.

2—Scope
Applies to farm personnel including workers, owners, and managers.

3—Responsibility
Farm workers are most likely able to identify animal and fecal material presence because of their presence in the field. Farm owners and managers will make decisions about deterrent methods, corrective actions, and farm policy regarding continued animal intrusion and presence.

4—Materials
- *Wildlife and Domestic Animal Monitoring log*
- Tools for removing and disposing of fecal contamination and affected fresh produce
- Clean water, hand soap, disposable towels
- Detergents and sanitizers for cleaning tools and equipment that have come into contact with contaminated soil, product, or feces

5—Procedure
To be completed upon finding evidence of animal intrusion or fecal contamination in fresh produce production areas.

A. If wildlife or domestic animal activity (e.g., extensive tracks, destroyed product) or fecal material is found in fresh fruit and vegetable production areas, the following actions should be taken:

1. Determine if the animal intrusion has compromised the safety of the crop by scouting for extensiveness of animal activity and for fecal material.

2. Repair or construct methods to exclude (or limit) animal entry into the field in the future. This might include fencing, noise deterrents, or removal of cull piles which may attract unwanted animals.¹

3. Record this observation and any actions taken as a result of the animal intrusion, including any methods to keep animals out of the field and what actions were taken to correct the incident.
B. If fecal contamination from wildlife or domestic animal activity is found in fresh produce production areas or on the product itself, the following actions should be taken:

1. Do not harvest any produce that may be contaminated with fecal material.

   **Option 1**: Flag the affected area(s) and create a buffer zone\(^2\) to identify the affected product that is to be excluded from harvest.
   
   - Evaluate the extensiveness of the contamination, weather conditions (such as rain that may cause splash), and whether the affected product and fecal material can be removed without causing further spread of contamination.
   
   - Make a decision whether to remove fecal material and contaminated product, if possible; or whether flagging and creating a buffer provides sufficient protection from contamination.
   
   - If extensive contamination is found throughout the field, it is best to take action to evaluate whether harvest should proceed and whether actions, such as disking in the crop, should be taken to minimize the risk.

   **Option 2**: Remove the feces and/or affected product from the field using designated tools or equipment.
   
   - Clean and sanitize all equipment and tools used to flag, remove, and dispose of affected produce and fecal material.
   
   - Any worker involved in the removal of contaminated product or animal fecal material must wash their hands with soap and water. Additionally, boots and clothing that may be soiled with contaminated product or feces should be changed to minimize the potential that contamination is spread.

2. All actions must be documented in the *Wildlife and Domestic Animal Monitoring Log*, including a description of the actions taken to reduce current food safety risks in the produce.

1. Note—Co-management: Be sure to check local, state, and federal laws and regulations that protect riparian habitat, removal of vegetation, or the construction of deterrent fences for wildlife corridors.

2. If fecal contamination is identified in the field, it is recommended that a buffer zone around the contamination be established and that no product in the buffer zone be harvested. These buffer zones should be a minimum of a 5 foot radius from the contaminated crop or feces, depending on the crop type, climate, and contamination event.
Sample Pre-Plant Animal Activity Assessment Log

Name of farm: Pleasant Valley Farm

Please see the food safety plan for overall wildlife and domestic animal management, monitoring procedures, and corrective actions. Attach any relevant information (e.g. pictures, maps, or other notes about the monitoring or event) to this assessment.

*Please complete this assessment each year before planting to assess wildlife and animal risks on the farm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Yes or No</th>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>Corrective actions (CA) taken</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are animals or animal pastures located up slope from produce fields and packing areas?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15–20 cattle grazing up the hill to east of retaining pond on neighbor’s property.</td>
<td>Test water if we plan to use it for irrigation this season. We also evaluated whether run-off might occur and decided to build a berm on the west side of the retaining pond in case of a flood event.</td>
<td>5-10-13</td>
<td>GW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there nearby bodies of water or other riparian areas where animals gather that represent significant risks to the crop?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there lands close by with significant numbers of wildlife that may gain access to production land?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the land being planted recently been grazed by domestic animals?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any fences, barriers, or deterrent methods in place to reduce or prevent entry of animals and significant risk to the crop?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed by: __________________________________________________________  Title: __________________________  Date: __________________________
### Sample Wildlife and Domestic Animal Monitoring Log

**Name of farm:**  
Pleasant Valley Farm

Please see the food safety plan for overall wildlife and domestic animal management, monitoring, and corrective actions. Attach any relevant pictures, maps, or other notes about the monitoring or intrusion event to this recordkeeping sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Field or location</th>
<th>Animal activity or intrusion event noted (yes or no)</th>
<th>Corrective actions (CA) taken</th>
<th>Date CA implemented</th>
<th>Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/2/13</td>
<td>West Field (Field #2 planted to cabbage).</td>
<td>Yes, a few deer tracks through field.</td>
<td>None. Determined the tracks were few, no fecal material present, and tracks crossed over road to corn field. Will monitor weekly.</td>
<td>6/2/13</td>
<td>GW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sample Pre-Harvest Field Assessment Log

Name of farm: *Pleasant Valley Farm*

Please see the food safety plan for overall wildlife and domestic animal management, monitoring procedures, and corrective actions. Attach any relevant information including pictures, maps, or other notes about the monitoring or event to this assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Yes or No</th>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>Corrective actions (CA) taken</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is there any evidence or observations of animals in the field?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>A few deer tracks on the edge of the field.</td>
<td>Scouted tracks to see if fecal material was present. It was not.</td>
<td>7/6/13</td>
<td>GW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there fecal material in the field?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there fecal material in direct contact with fresh produce?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do areas of “no harvest” need to be established?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this field safe to be harvested?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewed by: ____________________________________________ Title: __________________________ Date: ____________________
Template Language for Wildlife and Animal Management Section of a Farm Food Safety Plan

Risk Assessment

Wild and domestic animals can carry and spread many human pathogens. If allowed to enter the field or packing areas, animals can contaminate fresh produce. Wildlife is a part of the natural environment and cannot be excluded entirely, but measures can be established to actively deter animals from entering produce fields and packing areas. Wildlife and domestic animal activity is monitored so that decisions about food safety can be made during production and at the time of harvest, if significant intrusion has occurred.

Actions to Reduce Risks Associated with Domestic Animals and Wildlife

Animal access to growing fields, adjacent land, and water sources are assessed [at the beginning of each production season]. The type, location, and number of animals observed are documented, including grazing and feeding operations nearby. Animal and wildlife presence is monitored [enter frequency here] in the field and production areas during the production season.

All workers are taught how to identify and report animal activity (e.g., downed fences, destroyed product, or the presence of fecal material) to the [Supervisor, or enter specific individual here] while working on the farm.

Training may also include:

- How to identify signs of wildlife intrusion (animal tracks, destroyed product, downed fences, fecal material)
- Who workers should report wildlife activity to for risk assessment and documentation
- What actions to take (not harvesting product, proper removal and destruction of affected product, and sanitation of tools, hands, and equipment)
- [Add other policies here]

If significant animal activity is found during routine monitoring or pre-harvest assessments, the following steps are followed:

1. Mitigation measures are implemented or repaired as needed based on the pre-season assessment and routine monitoring. Mitigations are documented and their effectiveness is monitored throughout production. [Enter mitigation measures here].

2. Workers do not harvest produce which is in contact with feces and must notify the supervisor so the removal process can be initiated. The supervisor will decide whether to establish a buffer zone and leave feces and contaminated product not harvested and/or determine whether the product can be removed and disposed of properly to reduce the risk of contamination.

3. Buffer zones of [Enter size/radius] are established so produce close to the site(s) of contamination are not harvested.
Note: The buffer zone radius should be based on crop type, irrigation or water applications such as rain that may cause splash, and extent of fecal contamination. There are various recommendations for buffer size, but at minimum, a five foot radius from feces or contaminated crops is suggested to establish a no-harvest zone.

4. Fecal contamination is removed from the field and disposed of properly, if necessary.
   - If fecal contamination is extensive, management (e.g. disk into the soil) of affected product may be necessary.
   - Equipment used to remove or disk contaminated crop must be cleaned and sanitized when leaving the field to prevent cross-contamination to other areas of produce.
   - All employees involved in the clean-up are instructed to wash and sanitize their hands and replace their gloves, if worn, before returning to work.

Written records of wild and domestic animal risk assessment, monitoring, and corrective actions are kept on file at [enter location here] for [enter amount of time records are kept].