**Sample SOP: Pre-Plant Risk Assessment of Wildlife and Domestic Animal Activity In or Near
Produce Growing Areas**

**Revision: 3.0
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**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.