Sample SOP: Monitoring Wildlife and Domestic Animal Activity During the Production Season

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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.

1. 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.
1. 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*.