Sample SOP: Pre-Harvest Risk Assessment of Wildlife and Domestic Animal Activity in  
Produce Fields

**Revision: 3.0  
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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*.

1. 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*.
2. 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.

1. Document your observations and actions prior to harvest in the *Pre-Harvest Field Assessment Log*.