

# »» Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use

Animals are a produce safety concern because they can carry and spread human pathogens and are difficult to control. Completely excluding animals is not possible, and is not the goal of this portion of the Rule. An animal venturing onto the farm is not covered by the Rule. Action may be required, however, if the animal leaves feces on your covered produce.



## Monitor wildlife activity

You are not required to document wild animals passing through the farm. Documentation is only required if the animal left feces on your crops.

- During the growing season:
  - » Monitor for feces and evidence of intrusion.
  - » Evaluate risk of fecal contamination to tree and root crop produce.
  - » Consider past observations and wildlife attractants.
- Immediately before harvest:
  - » Monitor for fecal contamination and signs of animal activity, such as trampling, rooting, feeding, or tracks.
  - » Assess risks and decide if crop or part of crop can be safely harvested.

## Take corrective actions if there is contamination

- Do not harvest any produce that may be contaminated.
- Provide training to staff responsible for harvesting produce.
- Decide what to do with the contamination.
  - » Remove, leave or bury contamination, or use other strategies.
  - » Consider risks that could result from these actions, such as cross contamination of equipment with feces.

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- Document all monitoring, deterrence, and corrective actions.
- Consider these suggested corrective actions:
  - » Determine if no-harvest buffer zones around the contamination are enough to reduce risk to allow harvest of the uncontaminated produce.
  - » Create a visual system, such as colored ribbons or ropes, to identify the no-harvest buffer zone.

## Keep records

### Required

None

### Recommended

Pre-planting land assessments

Monitoring for animal activity

Actions taken to reduce the risks related to animal intrusion into crops, for both domesticated and wild animals

Pre-harvest risk assessments

Intrusion and contamination events

All corrective actions taken



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