

“Your Farm”

Family Farm

**GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
“GAPs”**

AND

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
“SOPs”**

July 2010

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Forward

The mission of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is to strengthen the relationship between the food consuming community and local family farmers. CAFF has been working for 30 years to promote a sustainable agriculture in California and to defend the interests of family farmers.

The following GAPs are intended for the small to medium family farm with limited resources in both time and money which is seeking to implement basic food safety practices or is looking to sell into wholesale markets or to retail stores. This program can be implemented by the farm operator or assigned to an employee. We intend for these GAPs to suffice in most if not all circumstances the grower may encounter. Of course the grower needs to be aware that various buyers may have different requirements, and ultimately it is up to that buyer and his consultants what metrics or audits will be required. It may serve the grower to insist that his farm has a food safety plan and that he can only implement one plan at a time. In many cases the buyer is only looking for evidence that food safety is being addressed at the farm level.

We need to be very clear in saying that CAFF does not believe that family farms produce unsafe food. Quite the contrary, we believe that fresh local food is in fact the safest food sold in America. We are also not saying that family farms should necessarily adopt these GAPs across the board. CAFF sees these practices as a tool the grower can use when the market demands it, and they may be more or less appropriate to different crops. In spite of vetting these GAPs with farmers, we are aware that these practices may come as a shock to many farmers. Take time and think about it. The grower cannot expect to implement these practices in two weeks, more like two months, and probably it will take a couple of years to comfortably make them a part of the farm culture. Some practices will be one time only (prior land use), others will need monitoring seasonally (adjacent land use and water testing), others will be ongoing, if not weekly (employee hygiene, training).

These GAPs are not meant to substitute for any metrics required in a processing contract. Processors—especially fresh cut processors—have particular concerns that are usually spelled out in the private contract.

A Note About This Document

This document provides guidelines and practical tools for use by family farmers. It is intended as an educational resource and not as technical advice tailored to a specific farming operation, or, even though it reflects food safety guidance from the FDA, as a substitute for actual regulations and guidance from FDA or other regulatory agencies. It is also not intended as legal advice. We cannot guarantee that use of these guidelines and tools will: (i) eliminate the risk of pathogenic contamination of fresh fruits and vegetables; (ii) eliminate the risk of harm to human and environmental health; (iii) enable a grower to comply with all applicable legal requirements, buyer sourcing requirements or processing contract terms; (iv) defend

successfully against legal claims; (v) reduce insurance costs; or (vi) sell into new markets. This document also identifies websites and other resources for possible use by growers. CAFF does not endorse and is not responsible for the availability or content of these resources. CAFF will not be responsible or liable, directly or indirectly, for any consequences resulting from use of this document or any resources identified in this document. CAFF is providing this document to family farmers as an educational service in line with its mission of fostering family-scale agriculture.

Acknowledgements

These GAPs are based on the FDA recommendations of 1998, as well as various crop-specific GAPs developed from them. We thank Drs. Trevor Suslow and Richard Molinar of the University of California Cooperative Extension for their assistance in developing and reviewing them. We also thank a committee of CAFF farmers who went through them line by line. A special thank you is due to Ken Kimes, the chair of the committee and a CAFF board member, who spent many hours developing them and sharing his personal experience with food safety audits. Finally, we thank JoAnn Baumgartner of the Wild Farm Alliance for providing Appendices I and II on animals of concern and laws relating to natural resources.

ROW, TREE, AND SMALL FRUIT CROPS

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

“GAPs”

YOUR FARM

FIELD OPERATIONS GAP CHART

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Standard Operating Procedure 1.1.
LAND USE
PRIOR LAND USE:

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that prior land use does not represent a likely source of contamination, whether by human pathogens or chemicals, to produce intended for human consumption in a raw or uncooked form.

Concern:

Growing produce in microbiologically or chemically tainted soils may lead to contamination. Extraordinary land uses such as feedlots or prolonged spreading of municipal sludge may interfere with safe produce production.

Contamination Process:

- a) Direct contact of produce with contaminated soils.
- b) Contamination via irrigation water applied to contaminated soils.
- c) Indirect contamination by equipment or human traffic tainted with contaminated soils

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) Avoid planting in land previously used for questionable practices.
- b) At least one-year buffer before harvesting produce from land previously used for concentrated animal husbandry is recommended.
- c) Conduct title search or question state or local officials to establish whether previous land use involved disposal of chemicals or biological wastes.
- d) If previous land use is considered to be questionable, conduct soil analysis in line with those concerns, e.g. for pathogens, heavy metals, etc.

Documentation:

- a) Soil analyses for possible chemical contamination,
- b) Title search and documentation pertaining to previous land use.
- c) Maintain organic certification, if applicable.

Standard Operating Procedure 1.2.
LAND USE
ADJACENT LAND USE:

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that adjacent land use does not represent a likely source of contamination, whether by human pathogens or chemicals, to produce intended for human consumption in raw or uncooked form.

Concerns:

Pesticide drift from an adjacent crop may lead to residues of pesticides not registered or above established tolerances for the crop. Dairy or animal husbandry, composting operations, etc., may lead to biological contaminants such as fecal matter or heavy metals

Contamination Processes:

- a) Spray drifts onto crops at a critical stage relative to harvest.
- b) Manure spreading to fields adjacent to produce growing area leading to direct contamination.
- c) Water runoff or dust containing animal waste directly contaminating the soil, wells, surface water, or product.

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) If conditions warrant, test product for possible non-compliant residues prior to harvest. Dispose of contaminated produce in such a way as to make it clearly non-consumable.
- b) Prevent the movement of unwanted animals using fences or barriers.
- c) Dig trenches or divert any potential contaminated runoff.
- d) Maintain vegetative buffer strips between cropped fields and areas used as animal pasture.
- e) Manure stored in close proximity to production areas should be covered with plastic or tarpaulins.
- f) Manure applications in adjacent fields should not be within two weeks of harvest.
- g) Un-composted manure will not be used within 120 days of harvest.

Documentation:

- a) Pesticide residue analysis (if needed).
- b) Runoff mitigation efforts. Date and method.
- c) Timing of manure use on adjacent fields (NUOCA log)
- d) Inspection of unwanted animal intrusion and of prevention fencing.

Standard Operating Procedure 2.1
WATER QUALITY
IRRIGATION/SPRAY WATER APPLICATION:

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that water used for crop production does not represent a likely source of contamination, whether by human pathogens or chemicals, to produce intended for human consumption in raw or uncooked form.

Concerns:

Contaminated water used for irrigation, produce washing, mixing foliar sprays or frost protection may act as a source of human pathogens or chemical contamination.

Contamination Processes:

- a) Direct application of contaminated water containing *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella* etc, to produce for human consumption.
- b) Secondary contamination of soils with tainted water source that may lead to contamination of produce containers, equipment, etc.

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) Conduct a Sanitary Survey of all water sources, creating a “map” of the water supply system and identifying components of the system
- b) Surface water tested **quarterly** for bacterial contamination or more often if historical data indicates a need.
- c) Closed water sources tested **yearly** for bacterial contamination.
- d) Water should be sampled as close to use point as possible; water source should be indentified on sample submittal forms.
- e) Water that tests out of specified limits will not be used for crop production. Mitigation measures will be taken or an alternative water source will be used.
- f) Do not use water reclaimed from municipal waste sources except in forage crop production.
- g) Use potable water source for foliar applications and for produce washing.
- h) Any produce that shows evidence of contamination or that is known to be contaminated will be disposed of in such a way as to render the produce unusable.

Documentation:

- a) Water tests results
- b) Inspection records, and plot maps identifying wells, reservoirs, turnouts, gates, pump locations, other irrigation system features and their locations.

Standard Operating Procedure 3.1.
FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS
MANURE, COMPOST, AND FERTILIZER:

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that manure or biological mulches used for crop production do not represent a likely source of contamination, whether by human pathogens or chemicals, to produce intended for human consumption in raw or uncooked form.

Concerns:

Foodborne pathogens transferred from animal fecal matter or biological mulches onto produce.

Human viruses and other pathogens transferred from human waste onto produce.

Contamination Processes:

- a) Direct application of pathogens such as *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella* etc, to produce during spreading of animal manures.
- b) Secondary contamination of soils with animal or human waste that may contact produce.

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) Do not use municipal biosolids for crop production.
- b) Composted manure will be used rather than fresh or aged manures if available.
- c) Crops will not be harvested until at least 120 days after application of un-composted manure.
- d) Any produce that shows evidence of contamination or that is known to be contaminated will be disposed of in such a manner as to render the produce unusable.
- e) All compost will be produced following the National Organic Program guidelines.
- f) Compost and non-synthetic crop treatments will be incorporated/used prior to planting, bud burst, and not within 45 days of harvest.

Documentation:

- a) Fertilizer and compost application records.
- b) Certificate of Analysis for all purchased fertilizer products.
- c) Records from compost producer or compost production (composting duration, turning frequency, temperatures)
- d) Manure supplier (name, address) date of receipt.
- e) Copies of testing, and certification from supplier if available.

Standard Operating Procedure 4.1

CROP PROTECTION CHEMICALS PREVENTING CONTAMINATION

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To prevent the contamination of produce by the misuse of crop protection chemicals.

Concerns:

Contamination of produce and endangerment of applicators by the misuse of crop protection chemicals (herbicides, pesticides, etc.)

Contamination Processes:

- a) Chemicals not mixed and applied as per label instructions.
- b) Inadequate worker training, protective gear, and improper disposal of left over material and containers.
- c) Drift from adjacent fields.
- d) Contamination from tank clean out areas.
- e) Contamination of water supply by cross connections and backflow.

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) Mix and apply chemicals as per label instructions.
- b) Properly licensed or trained applicators only.
- c) Proper disposal of left over material and containers.
- d) Maintain adequate distance between crop and water sources when mixing, loading, diluting chemicals.
- e) Properly clean and rinse equipment.
- f) Properly store chemicals.
- g) Backflow prevention, air gaps, etc.

Documentation:

- a) Application records, material use reports.
- b) Training records, license documents.
- c) Cleaning and disposal records.

Standard Operating Procedure 5.1
HARVESTING EQUIPMENT
PREVENTING CONTAMINATION

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that harvesting equipment, personal protective equipment, picking bins/containers are free from sources of contamination such as animal or human waste that may lead to contamination of the crop with food borne pathogens or prohibited chemicals.

Concerns:

Use of soiled harvesting equipment transfers human- or animal-borne pathogens to produce destined for human consumption.

Contamination Processes:

- a) Produce placed in bins or containers that have been contaminated by animal, human contact, contaminated soil, or chemicals.
- b) Contaminated hand tools, gloves, or picking bins transfer pathogens or chemicals to produce.

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) Clean clothing, personal protective equipment, and picking containers are used.
- b) Personal protective equipment and picking sacks are replaced as necessary.
- c) Picking bins are inspected before each use. Any sign of contamination is removed and the bin is cleaned.
- d) Harvesting clippers and hand tools are cleaned daily.
- e) Harvest knives and tools are not used for personal tasks.
- f) Clothing showing presence of contaminants (human blood, human or animal waste, etc) will not be worn.
- g) Clothing will be laundered using soap and water.

Documentation:

- a) Inspection, cleaning and replacement records.

Standard Operating Procedure 6.1.
WORKER HYGIENE:

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To reduce the potential for contamination of produce by an employee, either by his/her actions, hygiene or health.

Concerns:

Failure of all people working in direct contact with the produce or produce contact surfaces to follow proper food handling procedures may lead to the contamination of the produce with pathogens causing food-borne illness.

Contamination Processes:

- a) Not washing hands after using the toilet and/or prior to handling crops or equipment that contacts produce.
- b) Use of soiled clothing, gloves or equipment.
- c) Eating, drinking and smoking in crop production areas.
- d) People with open wounds, and/or infections, or communicable diseases that can contaminate the product.

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) Toilets and hand washing facilities will be maintained and in close proximity to all workers as per OSHA requirements (29CFR, Part 1928.110).
- b) Adequate supplies of potable water for hand washing.
- c) Disposal of trash in designated containers and removal from site.
- d) Eating, drinking and smoking limited to non-production areas.
- e) Workers who display symptoms of open sores, wounds, diarrhea, vomiting or infectious disease will not be permitted to handle product.
- f) Employees will receive appropriate training in proper food safety principles (recommend video).

Documentation:

- a) Employee hygiene training logs.
- b) Toilet cleaning and supply logs.

Standard Operating Procedure 7.1
Sanitary Facilities

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that sanitary facilities are maintained in accordance with laws and regulations describing field sanitation practices. To address correct worker hygiene practices and reduce the potential for produce contamination by an employee, either by his/her actions, hygiene, health, or habits.

Concerns:

All persons working in direct contact with produce must follow proper produce-handling techniques and food protection principles. Failure to follow these principles may lead to contamination of produce and/or food borne illnesses.

Contamination Processes:

1. Improperly maintained hand-washing facilities.
2. Improperly maintained toilet facilities.
3. Inadequate trash disposal.

Prevention or corrective actions:

All reasonable measures should be taken to assure the following:

- 1. You should consult your state regulations to determine the appropriate number of toilet facilities*
- 2. Each toilet facility must have toilet paper in a proper holder.*
- 3. Each toilet facility must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.*
- 4. It is recommended to have a current cleaning check sheet indicating each time the facility has been cleaned.*
- 5. Toilet facilities must be placed within ¼ mile or 5 minute walking distance of all employees. Workers should always have the opportunity to use the facilities when they require them.*
- 6. The hand washing facility must have sufficient water available for use, and the hand wash water in a portable facility must be labeled: 'This water for hand washing purposes only' in a language understood by the workers*
- 7. The hand-washing facility must have soap in a proper dispenser.*
- 8. The hand-washing facility must be supplied with single use disposable towels in a proper holder.*
- 9. The hand-washing facility shall have a receptacle capable of keeping the trash contained.*

10. It is recommended that each toilet/hand-washing facility have a supplies check sheet available indicating date checked and when supplies have been refilled.

11. If possible, portable toilet facilities should be cleaned and serviced away from the field.

12. When serviced by septic trucks near the field, all steps shall be taken to minimize the likelihood of crop contamination in the event of leakage or a spill.

Documentation:

- a) Toilet cleaning logs
- b) Copy of contractors license (if applicable).
- c) Copy of leakage and spill response plan.

Standard Operating Procedure 8.1.

RODENT CONTROL

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that rodents entering storage and packing areas do not act as a source of biological contamination to produce intended for human consumption.

Concerns:

Foodborne pathogens such as *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella* etc, from animal fecal matter or mechanical transfer.

Contamination Processes:

- a) Presence of rodents can cause contamination of produce with human pathogens through direct contact with fecal matter.

Prevention or corrective actions:

- a) Efforts are made to keep rodents out of crop holding, packing areas, and packing material storage areas.
- b) Eliminate potential food sources, aside from crop, that may attract rodents.
- c) Remove weeds and debris near storage and packing areas that may act as food source or habitat for rodents.
- d) Apply corrective actions to eliminate pests in the sorting, packing shed areas

Documentation:

- a) Rodent control records.

Standard Operating Procedure 9.1.
SELF-AUDIT:

Approved By: _____ (Food Safety Officer / Responsible Party)

Purpose:

To ensure that all aspects of our GAP program are being conducted satisfactorily by all of the employees and contractors that are involved with the production of produce.

Concerns:

Any deviation from our documented GAP program may allow potentially contaminated produce to leave our premises destined for human consumption.

Contamination Processes:

- a) Contamination of produce with sources of food-borne illness such as *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella* etc., as a result of non-compliance with the established GAP program with respect to: land use, water quality, fertilizer and pesticide applications, harvesting equipment, worker hygiene, toilet facilities, and pest control practices

Self-Audit protocol:

Self-Audits will be conducted **once before season starts and once during the season** by an assigned individual who has been trained in our Good Agricultural Practices program. All aspects of the GAP program will be audited and a written record of required corrective action will be documented. The self-audit will address employee practices and worker hygiene for all employees and sub-contractors. Written records of employee food safety training will be evaluated. The audit will observe whether SOP's established in this GAP program are followed at all times. All documentation including water quality logs and pesticide application records will be available and up to date at the time of the self-audit.

Documentation:

- a) Self-audit checklist.

APPENDIX I: RELATIVE RISK TO UNPROCESSED PRODUCE FROM ANIMAL PRESENCE

Most cattle operations, some feral pigs, and relatively few wildlife, especially those associated with polluted areas, are a food safety concern. Wildlife have a low incidence of carrying pathogens, yet many well-intentioned efforts to make the growing environment “clean” have created misguided farm requirements, harmful to both food safety and land stewardship practices. Grasses and wetlands can filter microbial pollution, especially when the residence time for water flowing through the systems is prolonged. While nature can never provide zero risk, the benefits that habitat brings outweighs the drawbacks of a denuded farm.

<p align="center">SUMMARY TABLE</p> <p align="center">RELATIVE RISK TO UNPROCESSED PRODUCE FROM ANIMAL PRESENCE</p> <p align="center">PREPARED BY WILD FARM ALLIANCE</p> <p align="center">www.wildfarmalliance.org</p>			
DOMESTIC ANIMALS ¹	FOOD SAFETY RISK	CURRENT SCIENCE WE KNOW	WHAT A FARMER CAN DO
Cattle	Very High	<p>Research shows cattle are major reservoirs of <i>E. coli</i> pathogens on the landscape. For <i>E. coli</i> pathogens in cattle farms and feedlots in the study areas, 63, 64, 75, 100, 100, 100, and 100% of the operations were positive with <i>E. coli</i> pathogens in 13 States and in Northwest U.S. In specific cattle herds within these and other operations, 0.3, 0.35, 0.7, 0.9, 1.0, 1.01, 1.25, 1.4, 1.8, 2.5, 3.7, 4.3, 6.9, 6.9, 13.4, 16.1, 19.7, 20.0, 21.0, 26.7, 27.3, 33.8, 53.0% were found to have <i>E. coli</i> pathogens in California, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Southern U.S., Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Czech Republic, England, Norway, and Switzerland. For <i>Salmonella</i> pathogens, cattle were found with 1.25 and 7% in Texas and Colorado (see supporting data).</p> <p>Amounts of <i>E. coli</i> pathogens present in herds depend on the age of the cattle, season, and how management of feed and grazing lands can affect re-infection rates (Hancock et al. 1998a, Hancock and Besser 2006, Hussein 2007, Khaita et al. 2006, Knox et al. 2007, Kuhnert et al. 2005).</p> <p>Grasses and wetlands can filter up to 99% of <i>E. coli</i> in water (Knox et al. 2007, Tate et al. 2006).</p> <p>Pathogens in made compost containing cattle manure can exist for up to 150 days or longer under some conditions. The outside edges of improperly made compost are known to contain pathogens (Erickson et al. 2010).</p>	<p>Prevent pasture and rangeland runoff from direct contamination of cropland and water sources used for crop management.</p> <p>Keep grasses and other vegetated buffers between crops and grazing lands. Rest grazing areas at least a week prior to irrigation. Filter runoff through conserved and restored wetlands.</p> <p>Putting cattle on healthy grasslands, instead of in confined feeding areas, may reduce the incidence of <i>E. coli</i> pathogens.</p> <p>Use certified compost or ensure compost made on the farm is turned evenly and the temperature is measured in multiple locations so that all parts reach proper temperature.</p>

¹ Other domestic livestock, such as sheep, goats, and pigs, have been found at times to carry human pathogens, but further research is needed to determine the extent of the problem.

NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS	FOOD SAFETY RISK	CURRENT SCIENCE WE KNOW	WHAT A FARMER CAN DO
Cattle (con't)	Very High	<p><i>E. coli</i> O157 can survive in dried conditions for long periods and be transferred in aerosols. Manure-laden <i>E. coli</i> O157 dust has made people sick at county fairs (Brabban 2004, Cooley et al. 2007).</p> <p>Pathogens like <i>E. coli</i> O157 are allowed to mutate and proliferate in confined animal feeding operations where unhealthy conditions and sub-therapeutic doses of antibiotics are given to make the animals gain weight quickly (Pew Charitable Trusts 2008).</p>	Cattle loafing areas can be sites where manure is ground into dust and blown onto crops. Use hedgerows and windbreaks to reduce dust blowing in on the wind.
Feral (non native) Pigs	Moderately Low	<p>In California, two studies documented 5% and 14.9% of feral pig samples containing <i>E. coli</i> O157 (see supporting data). These pigs were found in association with cattle.</p> <p>Feral pigs did not evolve in the U.S. and so are not compelled to hide from natural predators, although they may learn to hide from hunters. Since they are highly mobile on large home ranges, removing habitat is not an effective control strategy (Jay and Wiscomb, 2008). Feral pigs compete with native wildlife for resources and can help to destroy fragile ecosystems in wild areas.</p>	<p>Monitor cropped field for feral pig intrusion and define a no-harvest zone if fecal matter is present. Hunt feral pigs, or if continuously present in large numbers, install a short, hog wire fence.</p> <p>Do not remove habitat; it will not dissuade the animals.</p>
WILDLIFE			
Deer	Low	<p>For <i>E. coli</i> pathogens, deer were found with 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.25, 0.3, 0.4, 0.64, 0.7, 0.79, 1.5, 1.8, and 2.4% in California, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Southern US, Norway, and Sweden. Higher results of 9% came from a small study in Oregon where deer feces, not colon swabs, were collected; and of 23.9% from Spain where a mix of European elk, deer, and mountain sheep results were reported together.</p> <p>For <i>Salmonella</i> pathogens, deer tested positive 0, 0, 1, and 7.69% in Nebraska, Texas, Norway and Sweden (see supporting data).</p>	<p>Since the incidence of deer carrying <i>E. coli</i> O157 is low, removing habitat that protects water quality is counterproductive and the cost would not appear, at this time, to be justified. Providing an inexpensive feeding attractant away from cropped areas may reduce intrusion.</p> <p>If unusually high deer activity is detected in the field, consider discouraging animals with loud noises, motion sensors, food attractants placed in other areas, and fencing as a last resort (fence only the growing fields, not the whole farm).</p>

WILDLIFE	FOOD SAFETY RISK	CURRENT SCIENCE WE KNOW	WHAT A FARMER CAN DO
Rodents	Moderate	Rodents near buildings, confined animal feeding operations, and polluted areas are sometimes found carrying human pathogens. Rodents were found with 0 and 40% <i>E. coli</i> pathogens on dairy farms and cattle feedlots, respectively. Mice and rats tested positive 16.2% for <i>Salmonella</i> pathogens on chicken layer farms (see supporting data).	See p. 14 about rodents in or near storage areas. Do not grow crops eaten raw next to areas of concentrated cow manure.
Field Rodents	Low	<i>E. coli</i> pathogens were prevalent in rodents 0, 0, 1.4, and 20% (2 out of 10 rodents on cattle farms). According to UC Cooperative Extension, it is hard to justify extensive trapping, baiting, fencing, and vegetation clearing for the specific purpose of reducing animal (rodent) vectoring of <i>E. coli</i> O157, unless future research findings indicate otherwise (Salmon et al. 2008). Field rodents can be a significant food <u>quality</u> risk for processed crops because of the possibility of being chopped up into the harvest (see supporting data).	Since the incidence of field rodents carrying <i>E. coli</i> O157 is low, removing habitat that filters pathogens in water is counterproductive.
Birds Near Cattle Feedlots, Cattle Ranches, Dairy Farms or Polluted Areas	Low	Some of the time some birds near cattle and other pollution sources do carry <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> pathogens, but the prevalence is low. For <i>E. coli</i> pathogens, birds near cattle or pollution were found with 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.5, 0.9, 1, 1.6, 2.2, 2.9, 3.3, 3.6, 5, and 5.4% in California, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, Pacific Northwest, Washington, Wisconsin, Czech Republic, Denmark and England. For <i>Salmonella</i> pathogens, birds near cattle or pollution were found with 0, 0.7, 9, and 12.9% in Colorado, Kansas and Scotland (see supporting data).	While some birds can be a low risk, it may be prudent when growing freshly eaten crops near cattle or polluted areas, to not plant (or at least not harvest) in areas where birds consistently perch directly over the planted beds. Since the incidence of birds carrying <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> pathogens is low, removing habitat that filters pathogens in water is counterproductive.
Birds Not Near Cattle or Pollution	Very Low	No birds were found with <i>E. coli</i> pathogens in study areas not near cattle or pollution: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0% in Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Virginia and Sweden. For <i>Salmonella</i> pathogens, a few birds were found with low levels of 0.6, 4, and 4% in New Jersey, Virginia, and Wisconsin (see supporting data).	Even though birds not associated with cattle are a very low food safety risk, monitoring for high bird populations and when found creating a non-harvest zone in this area may be wise.

WILDLIFE	FOOD SAFETY RISK	CURRENT SCIENCE WE KNOW	WHAT A FARMER CAN DO
Amphibians and Reptiles	Low	Pathogens are known to be associated with amphibians and reptiles when exposed to abnormally high doses and when in unnatural areas, but the practical significance of this information for farmers is limited (Lowell et al. 2010). Frogs were found to shed <i>E. coli</i> O157 during specific lifecycle stages, but they had been inoculated with abnormally high levels under laboratory conditions (Gray et al. 2007). Kids and adults have been infected with <i>Salmonella</i> when handling their caged pets, which are often kept in unclean enclosures (Mermin et al. 2004) or in zoos (Bauwens et al. 2007). The cause of an outbreak with <i>Salmonella</i> tainted orange juice was never determined even though rodent and bird droppings were found inside the juice processing plant and one toad carrying the pathogen outside (Cook et al. 1998). No <i>Salmonella</i> was found in wild reptiles in Virginia (see supporting data).	Since amphibians are attracted to water, ensure that nearby riparian areas are not unnaturally depleted of water during the crop season. Conserve habitat.
Insects	Low	Studies show that flies can be vectors of <i>E. coli</i> pathogens from infected manure to crops, but data on the practical significance or relationship to outbreaks is unknown. For <i>E. coli</i> pathogens, 0, 3.33, 3.4, 5, 17, and 61% were found in Central California, Southern California, Wisconsin and Denmark. While fly regurgitation found on spinach had persisted for one week in the lab, it is unknown if it would persist in the field. It is thought flies tend to stay close to manure source unless they are drawn into a produce field by other food source, such as honeydew excreted by aphids.	Do not grow crops eaten raw next to areas of concentrated cow manure. Do not harvest crops impacted by high populations of flies close to harvest.

SUPPORTING DATA^{2, 3}

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Cattle Found with *E. coli* Pathogens

- Branham et al. 2005, livestock grazing in **Texas**
1.25% (1/80)
- Chapman et al. 1997, 4,800 tests of cattle in **England**
13.4% of beef cattle
16.1% of dairy cattle
- Cizek et al. 1999, fecal samples of cattle in feedlot in the **Czech Republic**
20% (72/365)
- Faith et al. 1996, dairy cow manure in **Wisconsin**
1.8% (10/ 560) calves
3.7% (19/51) follow-up testing
- Fischer et al. 2001, cattle in **Southern U.S.**
4.3% (13/305)
- Hancock et al. 1998a, cattle in confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) in **13 States**
63% (63/100) of beef cattle feedlots with one or more samples testing positive
75% (27/36) of dairy herds with highest herd prevalence of 10 - 26.7%
- Hancock et al. 1998b, cattle on farms in the **Northwest U.S.**
100% (12/12) farms with 1.1% to 6.1% prevalence within herds
- Hancock, et al. 1997, cattle herds
64% (9/14) of herds, with overall herd prevalence of 1.0%, with higher amounts in the summer
- Hussein et al. 2005 feedlot and range cattle
0.3 to 19.7% in feedlot cattle
0.7 to 27.3% in cattle on irrigated pasture
0.9 to 6.9% in cattle grazing rangeland forages
- Jay et al. 2007, cattle on rangeland in **California**
33.8% (26/77)
- Johnsen et al. 2001, intestinal contents from 1,541 cattle in **Norway**
0.35% (n=1,541)
- Khaitisa et al. 2006, seasonal shedding of *E. coli* O157: H7 in feedlot cattle in **North Dakota**
1.4% (2/144) cattle in October
6.9% (10/144) cattle in November
21 – 53% (30/143 – 76/143) cattle twice in March
- Kuhnert et al. 2005, organically and conventionally managed dairy cows in **Switzerland**
100% (60/60) STEC on organic dairy farms
100% (60/60) STEC on conventional dairy farms
25% (15/60) *E. coli* O157: H7 on organic dairy farms
17% (10/60) *E. coli* O157: H7 on conventional dairy farms
- LeJeune et al. 2008, cow manure in Ohio
2.5% (48/1869)
- Renter et al. 2003, fecal samples of cattle on ranches in **Kansas and Nebraska**
1.01% (92/9122)

Cattle Found with *Salmonella* Pathogens

- Branham et al. 2005, livestock grazing in **Texas**
1.25% (1/80)
- Pedersen et al. 2006, dairy manure in **Colorado**
7% (8/120)

² When available, data is presented as a percentage of animals with pathogens, and then in parentheses with the first number corresponding to the number of animals testing positive, and the second the total animals tested.

³ Where possible, a distinction is made between samples taken with swabs from trapped animals and from the colons of dead animals, versus those taken from the ground where they could have been contaminated by other animals, or multiple feces could have been deposited by the same animal.

NON- DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Feral Pigs Found with *E. coli* Pathogens

Jay et al. 2007, necropsy swabs and fecal samples from the ground of feral pigs on cattle rangeland in **California**

14.9% (13/87)

Jay-Russell et al. 2010 trapped and killed or hunter harvested feral pigs on cattle ranches and nearby produce fields in **California**

5% (10/200)

WILDLIFE

Deer Found with *E. coli* Pathogens

Branham et al. 2005, fecal and rumen samples of white-tailed deer near livestock grazing in **Texas**

0% (0/26) *E. coli* O157: H7

California Department of Fish and Game 2009, hunter harvested black-tailed deer in **California**

0% (0/311)

Dunn 2004, 3 studies of hunter harvested white-tailed deer in **Louisiana**

0.3% (n=338)

1.8% (n=55), captive in summer

0.4% (n=226) captive year average

Fischer et al. 2001, 3 studies of deer (both hunter harvested and feces on the ground) with cattle nearby in **So. U.S.**

0% (0/310)

0.64% (3/469)

0.7% (1/140)

Garcia-Sanchez 2007, deer rectal swab in **Spain**

1.5% (n=206)

Jay et al. 2010, hunter harvested black-tailed deer in produce fields and on cattle ranches in **California**

0% (0/19)

Keene et al. 1997, black-tailed deer feces on the ground in **Oregon**

9% (3/32)

0% (0/3), 4 months later

Lillehaug et al. 2005, hunter harvested deer in **Norway**

0% (0/135) red deer

0% (0/206) roe deer

0% (0/150) reindeer

Olsen et al. 2002, fecal samples of deer in **Wyoming**

0% (0/5 includes deer and elk samples)

Renter et al. 2003, ground scat and from hunter harvested deer near range cattle in **Kansas and Nebraska**

0% (0/141)

Renter 2001, hunter harvested white tailed deer in **Nebraska**

0.25% (4/1,608)

Rice et al. 2003, white tailed deer fecal samples

0.79% (5/630)

Samadpour et al. 2002, fecal samples of deer near cattle in **Washington**

0% (0/2)

Sanchez et al. 2009, deer in **Spain**

23.9% (58/243, includes deer and 2 other species)

Sargaent et al. 1999, wild white-tailed deer fecal samples taken near cattle ranches in **Kansas**

2.4% (5/212)

Shere et al. 1998, guts of deer near dairy farm in **Wisconsin**

0% (0/89 includes deer and 9 other non deer species)

Wahlstrom et al. 2003, hunter harvested roe deer in **Sweden**

0% (0/791 includes roe deer and 5 other non deer species)

Deer Found with *Salmonella* Pathogens

Branham et al. 2005, fecal and rumen samples of white-tailed deer near livestock grazing in **Texas**

7.69 % (2/26)

Lillehaug et al. 2005, hunter harvested deer in **Norway**

0% (0/135) red deer

0% (0/196) roe deer

0% (0/153) reindeer

Renter 2006, hunter harvested white tailed deer in **Nebraska**

1% (5/500)

Wahlstrom et al. 2003, hunter harvested roe deer in **Sweden**

0% (0/791 includes deer and 5 other species)

Rodents Found with *E. coli* or *Salmonella* Pathogens

Cizek et al. 1999, stool samples of rats associated with **cattle feedlot** in the **Czech Republic**

40% (4/10) Norway rat *E. coli* O157

Henzler and Opitz 1992, rodents on **chicken layer farms** in **Maine**

16.2% (116/715) mice & rats *Salmonella* pathogens

Shere et al. 1998, guts of mice and rats near a **dairy** in **Wisconsin**

0% (1/89 includes multiple other species) *E. coli* O157

Field Rodents Found with *E. coli* Pathogens

Hancock et al., 1998b, live caught rodents on cattle ranches in the **Pacific Northwest**

0% (0/300)

Jay-Russell et al. 2010 trapped and release wild mice, voles and pack rats on nearby produce fields and cattle ranches in **California**

1.4% (1/72) deer mouse

Nielson et al. 2004, fresh rodent feces on cattle farms in **Denmark**

20% (2/10)

Rice et al. 2003, rodents in an undisclosed location

0% (0/300)

Birds Found Near Cattle or Polluted Areas with *E. coli* Pathogens

Cizek et al. 1999, fresh feces of birds nearby cattle feedlot in the **Czech Republic**

0% (0/50) pigeon

0% (0/20) sparrow

Gaukler et al. 2009, cloacal swabs of birds associated with a feedlot in **Kansas**

0% (0/434) European starlings

Hancock et al., 1998b, feces of wild birds on cattle ranches in the **Pacific Northwest**

0.5% (1/200)

Jay-Russell et al. 2010, colonic fecal samples or swabs from birds on cattle ranches and nearby produce fields in **California**

5.4% (5/93) American crows

3.3% (2/60) brown-headed cowbirds

LeJeune et al. 2008, guts of birds near a dairy farm in **Ohio**

2.2% (7/316) European starlings

Nielson et al. 2004, bird feces near cattle and pig farms in **Denmark**

1.6% (4/244) two tree sparrows, one barn swallow and one European starling

Renter et al. 2003, fecal samples of wild birds near cattle ranches in **Kansas** and **Nebraska**

0% (0/9)

Samadpour et al. 2002, ducks, cows and other species near a lake in **Washington**

5% (1/20) one duck

Sanderson et al. 2006, feces of birds from in a cattle feedlot

3.6 % (6/165) unknown bird species

Shere et al. 1998, guts of pigeons, turkeys, sparrows, starlings near a dairy in **Wisconsin**

1% (1/99) one pigeon

Wallace et al., 1997, fresh feces of Herring gull, black-headed gull, and common gull, crow, and jackdaw in two locations in **England**

2.9% intertidal zone
0.9% landfill

Birds Found Near Cattle or Polluted Areas with *Salmonella* Pathogens

Fenlon, 1981, seagull feces near sewage outfalls and lakes in **Scotland**, the former of which had the highest rates (17-21%)

12.9% (160/1,242)

Gaukler et al. 2009, cloacal swabs of birds associated with a feedlot in **Kansas**

0.7 % (3/434) European starlings

Pedersen et al. 2006, cloacal swabs of rock pigeons in two locations in **Colorado**

9% (9/106) dairy farms

0% (0/171) urban areas

Birds Not Near Cattle or Polluted Areas Found with *E. coli* Pathogens

Converse et al., 1999, bird feces in non-agricultural areas of **Massachusetts, New Jersey and Virginia**

0% (0/360) goose

Kullas et al. 2002, bird feces in **Colorado**

0% (0/397) goose

Palmgren et al. 1997, stool samples of birds in **Sweden**

0% (0/101) passerines

0% (0/50) seagulls

Rice et al. 2003, birds in an undisclosed location

0% (0/121) Canada geese

0% (0/67) trumpeter swan

0% (0/150) gull

0% (0/20) duck

0% (0/124) European starling

0% (0/83) wild turkey

Wahlstrom et al. 2003, hunter harvested geese and seagulls in **Sweden**

0% (0/791 includes geese and 5 other species)

Birds Not Near Cattle or Polluted Areas Found with *Salmonella* Pathogens

Converse et al., 1999, bird feces in non-agricultural areas of **Massachusetts, New Jersey and Virginia**

0.6% (2/360) goose

Palmgren et al. 1997, stool samples of birds in **Sweden**

4% (2/50) seagulls

Wahlstrom et al. 2003, hunter harvested birds in **Sweden**

4% seagulls

Amphibians and Reptiles Found with *E. coli* and *Salmonella* Pathogens

Gray et al. 2007, two ages of American bullfrog inoculated with high levels of *E. coli* O157 in **Tennessee** lab.

0% tadpoles in flow-through aquaria

54% metamorphs placed in stagnant aquaria (stale water used to speed up experiment)

Richards et al. 2004, cloacal swabs from free-living reptiles in **Virginia**.

0% *Salmonella* for 34 eastern box turtles, 14 eastern painted turtles, 14 snapping turtles, 6 black rat snakes, 2 redbelly turtles, 2 yellowbelly sliders, 2 eastern garter snakes, and 1 eastern river cooter.

Insects Found with *E. coli* Pathogens

Nielson et al. 2004, insects on cattle and pig farms in **Denmark**

0% (0/6) pooled insect samples

Rice et al. 2003, rodents in an undisclosed location

3.33% (2/60) pooled flies

Sanderson et al. 2006, houseflies in a cattle feedlot

3.4% (53/1,540) housefly

Shere et al. 1998, flies caught in a fly trap on a dairy in **Wisconsin**

5% (1/20)
Talley et al., 2009 filth flies fly captured in leafy green fields in **Central California**
61% (11/18)
Wayadande 2010, flies that fed on inoculated manure or bacterial lawns and then regurgitated onto spinach
in **Southern California**.
17% (17/98) of pooled flies *E. coli* O157:H7

APPENDIX II: REGULATIONS PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES⁴

This table has been created to help producers understand federal and state regulations in order for them to educate their food safety inspectors/auditors. If a producer believes that their food safety inspector/auditor is suggesting or requiring an action that is contrary to these regulations, please contact the applicable agency immediately.

REGULATIONS PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES			
AGENCY	WHAT IT PROTECTS / REGULATES	WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT	WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION
USDA National Organic Program	Soil, Water, Wetlands, Woodlands, and Wildlife	Conserves fertile soils, ensures water quality, helps to recharge groundwater and alleviate flooding, and protects native species and ecosystems important to agricultural production and the larger landscape.	www.wildfarmalliance.org http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/OSPtemplates.html
State and Federal Wildlife Agencies	Threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats. Migratory birds.	Helps to address the biodiversity crisis.	www.fws.gov/offices/statelinks.html
National Marine Fisheries Service	Threatened and endangered anadromous fish species (i.e. salmon, trout, sturgeon) and their habitats	Helps to address the biodiversity crisis.	www.nmfs.noaa.gov/
Environmental Protection Agency and State Water Agencies	Water quality	Helps to provide clean water resources and supplies for human and wild communities.	http://epa.gov/agriculture/water.html
US Army Corps of Engineers	Modifications to surface waters under USACE jurisdiction, such as: disposal of materials into water, adding or fixing a culvert, regrading slopes, and filling in wet depressional areas.	Helps to conserve riparian areas, recharge groundwater and alleviate flooding.	www.usace.army.mil/

⁴ The regulations presented here are not meant to be an exhaustive. More detailed information can be obtained from the agencies themselves.

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DRAFT

February 17, 2010

MONITORING LOGS

DRAFT

February 17, 2010

SMALL FARM
<i>Water Sampling Monitoring Log</i>

DATE	SAMPLED BY	SAMPLE LOCATION	REQUESTED ANALYSIS

SMALL FARM
Employee Non-Compliance Form

Date:
 Employee Name:
 Supervisor:

Employee was found in violation of the following regulation:

- E.g.
- Clean clothing not worn
 - Clean rubber gloves not worn where appropriate
 - Wearing hand jewelry or watches in post harvest handling area area.
 - Not using hand/gloves dip stations
 - Eating, drinking, smoking, or chewing tobacco in the re-packing area
 - Not using facial mask while suffering a respiratory illness
 - Unsafe use of equipment
 - Product Abuse (describe)

The Supervisor notifies the employee of the violation and explains the reasoning behind the regulation.

1st Warning (Verbal): _____ 3rd Warning (Disciplinary): _____

2nd Warning (Written): _____

Supervisor has given the appropriate warning:

Signature

Date

Employee understands the significance of the violation:

 Signature

Date

SMALL FARM
NUOCA LOG (Notice of Unusual Occurrence and Corrective Action)

Date: _____

Time of Occurrence:

Description of Problem or Occurrence:

Corrective Action:

Reported By: _____

Supervisor on Duty: _____

SMALL FARM
Employee Education and Training Log

Date of Training	Topic
The following employees were present	Materials:
1	21
2	22
3	23
4	24
6	25
6	26
7	27
8	28
9	29
10	30
11	31
12	32
13	33
14	34
15	35
16	36
17	37

Date of Training	Topic
The following employees were present	Materials:
18	38
19	39
20	40