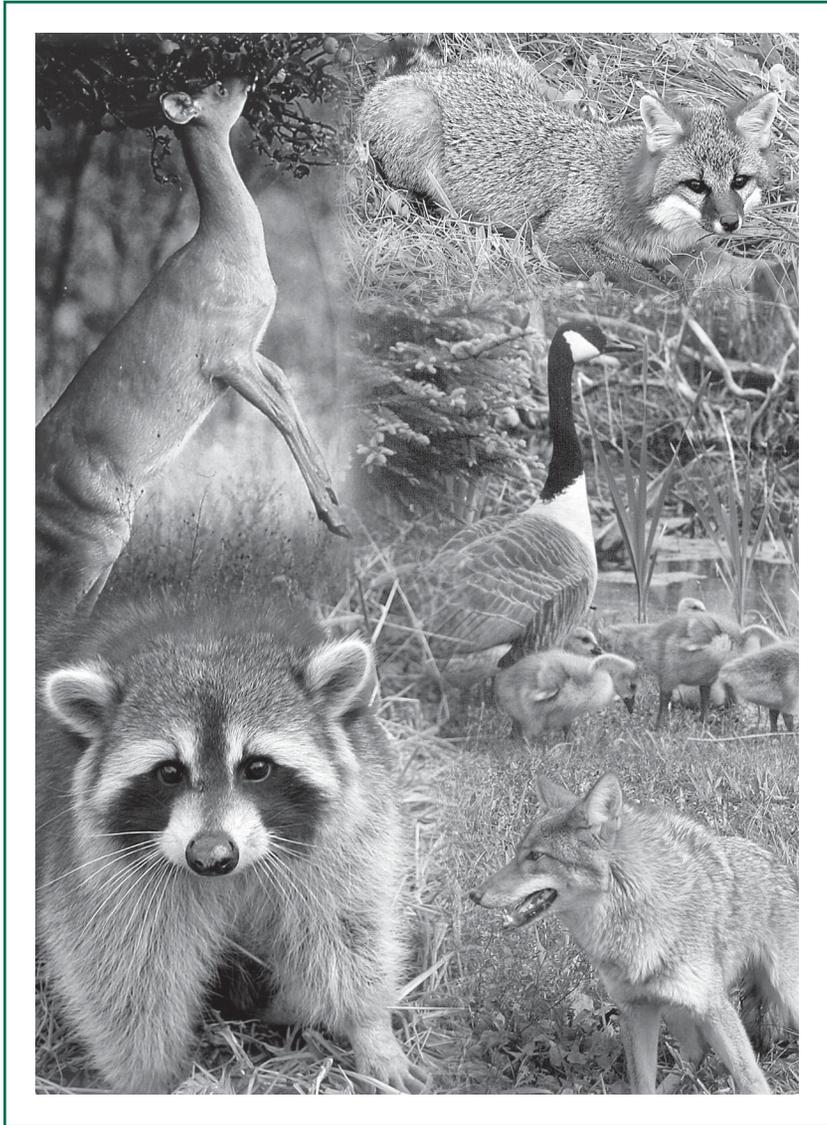


## Food Safety Begins on the Farm: A Grower Self Assessment of Food Safety Risks



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# Wild Animals

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## Wild Animal Management

While several of these worksheets focus on management of manure from domestic animals, growers should be aware that many human pathogens are also carried by wild animals. Transmission of *E.coli* 0157:H7 has been documented in several wild animals, including rodents, deer, geese, and even flies.

While it is unreasonable to

expect complete wild animal exclusion in the field and packing house, active controls and deterrents should be used wherever possible. Farm ponds can be a particular draw to these animals, requiring extra diligence, especially if you are using this water for irrigation. In packing houses and produce wash area, implement active animal monitoring and control practices. All good agricultural practices used in the field can be quickly reversed by poor animal control and lack of sanitation programs in the packing house.

This section is meant to highlight good agricultural practices that can be used to limit the risks created by wild animals. For example, screen doors and windows, seal cracks, and trap rodents

and other pests in the packing house. Keep garbage cans and dumpsters covered at all times. In addition, deter birds from roosting on overhead beams or structures in packing areas. Protect packing materials from animals that might be looking for nesting, roosting, or hid-



ing places. Avoid storing boxes and finished products against the walls. Allow at least 18 inches of clearance between pallets and the wall, as well as between every other pallet to maintain rodent control programs. In the field, remove brush that provides cover for wild animals and attempt to prevent irrigation ponds from becoming home to flocks of birds. By developing a regular schedule for monitoring and recording your efforts to reduce wild animals in your fields and packing areas, you will be able to determine which strategies are most effective at controlling wild animals and reducing microbial risks. An active and monitored pest control program will help reduce the likelihood of pest infestations.



*Farm ponds can be a particular draw to wild animals, requiring extra diligence, especially if you are using this water for irrigation.*

# Wild Animal Management

## Good Agricultural Practices

## Practices Requiring Attention



Management Area	Best Practice	Minor Adjustments Needed	Concerns Exist; Examine Practice	Needs Improvement: Prioritize Changes Here
<b>Restriction of wild animals from production fields and irrigation ponds</b>	Wild animals are excluded (as much as possible) using fencing and other active deterrents. Animal attractants are minimized by discarding old equipment and containers, removing excess water, and keeping weeds and brush mowed.			No wild animal exclusion efforts have been made for produce fields or irrigation ponds.
<b>Rodent, bird, and insect exclusion from storage and packing areas</b>	All storage and packing areas are inspected weekly for rodents, birds and insects. Pest control procedures (traps, screening and doors) are used to exclude or remove pests. SOPs are in place for pest control. 	All storage and packing areas are inspected monthly for rodents, birds and insects. Pest control procedures (traps, screening and doors) are used to exclude or remove pests.	Rodent, bird and insect activity is apparent and inadequate controls are being applied. Control effectiveness not assessed or modified as needed.	Rodent, bird and insect activity is apparent in the packing area but no controls have been applied.
<b>Cull pile management</b>	Cull piles from harvest or packing operations are not located near packing house areas <b>AND</b> are either composted or field spread daily.	Cull piles from harvest or packing operations are not located near packing house areas <b>AND</b> are either composted or field spread weekly.	Cull piles from harvest or packing operations are located near packing house areas, <b>AND</b> are removed monthly.	Cull piles are located near packing house areas <b>AND</b> are never removed. The pile decomposes in the same place year after year.



# Wild Animal Management Action Plan

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Field or Commodity: \_\_\_\_\_

Management Area					Your Plans to Reduce Risks			
					Action for Improvement	Person Responsible	Estimated Cost	Target Date
Restriction of wild animals from production fields and irrigation ponds								
Rodent, bird, and insect exclusion from storage and packing areas								
Cull pile management								