

5.0 Animals (Answers 1-8, 1-11 - 1-13)

Purpose:

To ensure that best management practices are used within agricultural production fields to limit potential contamination by animal activities.

Concern:

Animal feces in agricultural production of fresh fruits and vegetables have been found to be a vehicle for pathogens associated with microbial contaminants and cross-infection.

Contaminants Introduction

- Nearby animal manure sources
- Livestock/animal access to both crop production areas and water sources

Policies and Procedures:

List what you are doing to exclude animals from the field to avoid introducing contaminants. These are some sample policies.

1. Crop production areas and facilities will be located to prevent runoff from animal production.
2. Farm maps (Appendix 1.1) will identify the existing permanent animal production areas, specifically upstream and upwind animal pastures, feedlots, manure lagoons, and uncontrolled animal access to surface waters.
3. NC Wildlife Resource Commission guidelines (http://www.ncwildlife.org/fs_index_04_hunting.htm) will be followed for hunting, trapping, and handling animals.
4. Non-regulated wildlife nuisances will be live-trapped and relocated, and a Notice of Unusual Events/Problems and Corrective Measures will be completed.
5. Domestic nuisances will be identified and owners notified or Animal Control will immediately remove animals from production areas.
6. Production areas will be visually inspected daily for broken fences and other signs that wild or domestic animals have entered the area. Water supplies will also be visually checked. Documentation will be with the Field Supervisor's checklist (Appendix 3.3).
7. When choosing new fields, the location of manure storage and treatment sites will be considered, making sure they are not contributing sources of contamination on produce fields or packing facilities.
8. Natural or physical containment barriers, including berms, buffer zones, and ditches, will be located between the manure lagoons or manure storage areas and will be designed to divert potential overflows, if found to be needed.
9. When possible, physical topography will be utilized to eliminate potential runoff or restrict access to water sources.
10. Unrestricted access by livestock to surface waters will be limited when possible.

Corrective Measures

1. If evidence of animal waste is found, an area (5 feet square) will be quarantined to eliminate potential cross-contamination and prevent accidental harvest. Evidence will be removed and disposed of immediately. This activity will be recorded in Appendix 1.3 - Notice of Unusual Events.
2. All necessary measures to prevent domestic animals from re-entering crop production areas and water sources will be taken, including repairing or installing fences or ditches and advising employees to immediately report incidents.