

prevailing regulations are for their commodities regarding the use of manure and biosolids.

Animal manure or biosolids which are composted require a documented composting process be developed and available for review. If purchasing composed manure, has documentation from the composter listing the process used and test results showing the process effectively controlled the pathogens of concern should be maintained. If an operation has questions regarding proper composting procedures, contact the Cooperative Extension Service in your state. Most all Extension Services have developed proper composting procedures and have this type of information readily available.

ANIMALS/WILDLIFE/LIVESTOCK

Animals pose a potential source of contamination for fruit and vegetable crops. Domestic animals which can be controlled such as livestock or pets need to be excluded from entering crop production areas in order to reduce the potential for contamination. However, when farm service animals (horses, oxen, and mules) are used, an operation shall address potential sources of contamination through a risk assessment and documented SOP's to control hazards caused by these animals and remediation steps which will be taken if they cause contamination.

The USDA GAP&GHP program requires operations to monitor for the presence or signs of animals. Based on the results of the monitoring, if necessary take measures to reduce the opportunity for animals from entering the crop production areas. This does not mean total exclusion; farming operations are never going to be able to completely exclude wild animals from entering crop production areas. However, every effort should be made to limit the access to the production areas. When needed, measures should be taken to reduce the entry into crop production areas by wild animals. This can be accomplished many ways, including such items as noise cannons or scare balloons to scare away birds and migratory water fowl, or fencing /other barriers or deterrents which limit wildlife access.

Operations shall also consider any local, state or federal regulations when developing mitigation strategies for wild animals. Regulations may limit the options for controlling wild animals. Co-management strategies which balance food safety concerns with wildlife control and not just remove riparian areas, grass buffer strips and other conservation practices should also be considered. Operations can contact the local Natural Resources & Conservation Service or their local county extension agent for more information on co-management.

LAND USE & LAND USE HISTORY

The operation must consider the crop production areas and adjacent land use through a documented land use risk assessment. Any risks reasonably likely to cause chemical, physical or microbiological contamination of the produce which are identified by the risk assessment must be addressed and the crop production area tested to validate the hazard has been addressed. While adjacent lands may not be the property