**FARM FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENTS AND HOW TO WRITE THEM**

Your farm food safety plan should include the following assessments. For each assessment, you should address these questions in your plan, in order to demonstrate that you have assessed the risks and if necessary, taken steps to mitigate them. It is important that you describe the actual situation on your farm and do not just use a generic response. The more detail you can provide the better as it will demonstrate that you have seriously considered the potential risks and how to mitigate them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checklist Question</th>
<th>What do I need to Assess?</th>
<th>What should assessment include?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1-3                | The quality of your irrigation water sources for the crops it is applied to | • The source(s) of irrigation water for different crop types  
• What are the E.coli levels  
• When and how irrigation is applied (overhead or sprinkler, drip, drip under plastic) for different crops  
• Any potential risks associated with the water source, the irrigation method, or the crop (e.g. animals upstream)  
• Steps you take to reduce the risk  
• If you think the risk is minimal, explain why |
| 1-4                | The quality of the water used for chemical applications and/or fertigation | • What are E.coli levels for this source of water (may be same as irrigation)  
• How and to what part of plant are chemical applications made?  
• When are chemical/fertigation applications made? (i.e. the further away from harvest, the lower the risks) |
| 1-8 | Proximity of production areas to dairy, livestock, fowl or poultry production areas | - Do you or your neighbors have livestock or poultry?  
- If so, describe how close they are to your production areas, whether there is any potential for raw manure to run-off or blow onto your crop production areas  
- How do you mitigate risks of raw manure on your crops? (berms, ditches, buffer strips, windrows or other barriers) |
| 1-23 | A previous land use risk assessment has been performed.  
This should include any possible risks from surrounding/neighbor’s land, such as cattle, land fills, subdivision, etc., that could leach or run-off contaminants onto your land, or topography related features that may potentially contribute to risk, such as a river or stream that could overflow onto your production areas, and how you plan to address those risks if they exist. | - How long has the farm been in crop production?  
- If it was previously used for dairy, livestock or poultry production – how long ago was that? Was it recent enough that there could be risks associated with raw manure or carcass disposal sites?  
- Were any areas near current production sites used as dumps or waste areas?  
- Are there old buildings that could have chemicals or petrochemicals that could have contaminated the soil or crops? |
| 2-1 | A documented pre-harvest assessment is made on the crop production areas. | - You should have a form for this – if not, contact GAPs Outreach program to get a copy |