

## Food Safety Alert – 11/14/06

The *Salinas Californian* is reporting today that building fences to protect farmland from feral pigs may have impacts on the free movement of other wildlife species. "Doing something like that is troublesome to us, because it limits wildlife corridors," Troy Swauger, a spokesman for the California Department of Fish and Game said, "referring to both other animals and streambeds."

As we recall, test results from the FDA may have implicated feral pigs, the creek near the farm as well as cattle manure nearby. Dawn Withers writes, "Because of the outbreak, state and federal officials are developing stricter food safety guidelines for growers in California. Those rules may include fences and buffers to keep animals such as wild pigs out of produce fields." Barriers may not be the answer as the wild pigs have been known to break them down. However, many farmers do build fences voluntarily to prevent them from damaging crops. The article goes on to state that until new regulations are in adopted, farmers will continue to rely on current practices, which include trapping when property owners complain about damaged fences and fields that have been rooted through.

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006611110321>

KCBS radio is reporting that Mexican agricultural inspectors will be in the Salinas Valley as early as this week to clear spinach for its return to supermarket shelves in Mexico. (As we recall from yesterday's update, Gov. Schwarzenegger made an endorsement of spinach in Monterrey, Mexico with President-elect Calderon.)

<http://kcbs.com/pages/124300.php?contentType=4&contentId=240115>