



Protecting the Farm From Potential Liability Issues

Legal issues and liability surrounding farming activities continues to increase as producers find themselves farming in more populated areas with larger equipment and more dollars invested in their farm business. Farmers are required to be experts in a growing number of areas and knowledgeable about an increasing number of regulations. Many of these regulations farmers were once exempt from...but that is no longer the case today. This project set out to educate and inform producers about important rules and regulations that they are legally required to comply with.

Project director Julia Woodruff of Ag Credit in Ohio, held three day-long workshops in northern Ohio, in collaboration with a representative of a local law firm and a transportation company representative. Discussion was held on topics related to business entities and trucking compliance, as well as the liability concerning these issues. This included what tools are available to producers and how they can use these tools to manage their risk. Other specific issues included: Farm/personal liability, asset holding, tax issues as related to business

entities, truck licensing, regulations for in-state and out-of-state transportation. Over 220 producers attended (well above the anticipated 90 participants) and were able to ask presenters specific questions concerning their operation and how new requirements will affect them.

As a result of the workshops, over 100 respondents addressed the need for an LLC for their operation. 84% of this group noted that they had decided that establishing an LLC was the right decision for their business and many were in the process of working towards this. On the other hand 16% decided that the information they received at the workshops helped them decide an LLC was not what their operation needed. Before the workshops, 71% of the total respondents noted they didn't realize their trucking practices were out of compliance with current regulations, 92% stated they gained a better understanding of trucking regulations, and most importantly, 67% would change their trucking practices to come into compliance with current regulations.

Actual changes made by participants as a result of the workshops included: 44% purchasing safety kits for their trucks, 25% had actually earned their CDL, and 81% had reviewed and discussed current trucking practices with others involved in their farming operation. Producers commented that "I didn't realize that I shouldn't park a truck on the side of the road without proper signage," and "I'm going home to get my CDL!"



*"I'm going home to get my
CDL!" – Protecting the Farm
From Potential Liability Issues*





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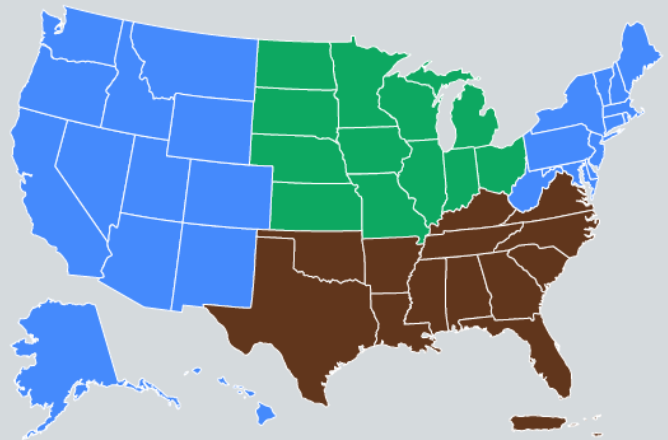
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**“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers
to manage the unique risks of producing food
for the world’s table.”**

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website. <http://ExtensionRME.org>



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