

EFP's Saved The Farm

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In May 2000, people in Walkerton Ont. became ill by drinking contaminated water. Our farm was implicated and by October 2000, we were served with a 350 million dollar lawsuit claiming that we were strictly liable for any and all loss or damage in the Walkerton Tragedy.

This message will discuss vulnerability of farmers to these situations and how I feel that the EFP assisted in exoneration of our farm.

I will discuss vulnerability with personal experience in

- investigations
- media
- legal proceedings
- inquiry
- resulting stress and loss of income

Then I will explain how I feel that by having an EFP in place helped exonerate our farm.

I will discuss how the EFP gives you improved:

- Confidence (during aggressive investigations)
- Management Practices
- Critical Overview (of your farming practices and of others with relation to the environment)
- Public Awareness (lets the public know that you care)

The specific Exoneration Assistance of the EFP by

- Due Diligence (demonstrates that you are protecting the environment to the best of your ability)
- Inquiry (the expert witness hired by the Commission totally undressed our farming practices for the 2 years prior to the tragedy and because of the EFP we were able to provide records of all the crop inputs, yields, manure applications and amounts, and soil samples for the period requested).

Then I will end the discussion with how I feel you can protect yourself as a farmer:

- 1-Environmental Farm Plan
- 2-Nutrient Management
- 3-Records
- 4-Personal Pride and Satisfaction