Case Study: Field Day Safety

CASE STUDY NOTICE
The following case study is designed to be instructive of the issues that should generally be addressed in the situation described; they are not an exhaustive list of actions for every similar situation faced by Extension employees. The particular facts of the situation will always dictate the appropriate response. Specific questions related to a particular fact pattern should be discussed with the proper Extension administrator(s).

SITUATION:

The Wildlife Committee is sponsoring a Wildlife Management Field Day on the property of a private landowner. A participant steps into a hole and injures his ankle. The landowner expresses concern to the agent regarding her liability and responsibility.

Instructions: Using the above situation, consider and discuss the following questions:
1. What is at risk for the organization and/or the individual Extension professional?
2. How would you suggest handling this situation, given the decisions that have already been made, to bring resolution?
3. How would you suggest handling this situation in the future?
4. How do you explain the liability responsibility to the landowner for both her and Extension’s protection?

Immediate response:
1. The landowner should be covered because the hole was not deliberately placed there for the purpose of creating the injury. The landowner should be covered by the Special Protection for Agricultural Landowners and Recreation Activities, Chapter 75, Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code if they have purchased insurance in the minimum amount required by the statute.
2. The landowner should contact his/her personal insurance company to verify coverage.

Future solutions to situation:
• Agents using private property for field days should work with the landowners to verify that the property and landowner are covered.