

Iowa CCI will help flood-stricken farmers negotiate with lenders

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (Iowa CCI) announced today that it will help flood-stricken farmers negotiate with commercial banks, the Farmers Home Administration and other lenders on requests for debt restructuring and forbearance. There is no charge for this service. Farmers can call the Iowa CCI office in Des Moines at 515/266-5213 for more information.

"We want to do whatever we can to help insure that farmers who have been hurt by the floods and wet weather are getting a fair shake from their lenders," said Morris Smith, an Iowa CCI board member who farms near Creston in Union County.

Smith added, "it will be al-

most impossible for many farmers to pay their crop input costs, cover family living expenses, and also make scheduled loan payments. We could lose a lot of people if lenders fail to restructure existing debts or offer some type of forbearance or leniency."

Iowa CCI is a grassroots community organization that has been working with family farmers on credit issues for over 10 years. The group has helped small and mid-sized family farmers negotiate successfully with local FmHA offices and banks on a variety of credit-related matters. The Iowa CCI office is located in Des Moines at 1607 E. Grand Avenue, 5 blocks east of the State Capitol.