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Farm Advocacy Services for Cut-Off Omtron Growers, 2012

RAFI's Farm Advocate is available free of charge to meet with cut-off Omtron (formerly Townsends) growers to provide in-depth financial counseling and planning. RAFI's services are free of charge and confidential. The Farm Advocate will begin by reviewing growers' financial information with him/her and prepare a preliminary farm plan in cooperation with the grower.

Financial assessment: The initial meeting will take place at the growers' home or a mutually agreed upon place. RAFI will send the grower a list of documents to compile before the meeting. The farm advocate will evaluate the growers' balance sheet and cash flow. The advocate and the grower will explore their financial options.

Meeting with the bank: The Farm Advocate will accompany the grower to meetings with lenders or the USDA. Part of these visits will involve sharing the farm plan with the bank and using it to negotiate a mutually agreed-upon payment plan.

Legal assistance: When a grower requires legal assistance, the farm advocate will refer to free legal services for those eligible, and will work with the grower to locate paperwork and prepare documents ahead of time in order to work with the attorneys in an efficient manner.

Alternative enterprises: RAFI can assist growers interested in pursuing alternative enterprises with business-planning and referrals to farmer peers and others who can offer sound advice and resources, giving them the best possible chance of launching a new enterprise if they so wish.

Confidentiality: RAFI's Farm Advocate will only share a growers' financial information with others at RAFI to strategize about the best possible way to help the grower. No one outside of RAFI will know that a grower is working with RAFI's Farm Advocate. RAFI shares aggregate information about advocacy work, but nothing about a growers' specific case will ever be shared outside of RAFI without a growers' permission.

To learn more about RAFI's Farm Advocacy services and/or to set up a meeting, please contact Joe Schroeder at 919-621-0534, email joe@rafiusa.org or Francesca Hyatt at (919) 323-7587, email francesca@rafiusa.org.



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