



Agricultural Mediation Program

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Mediation Program makes grants to state-designated entities that provide alternative dispute resolution through mediation to agricultural producers, their lenders and others directly affected by the actions of certain USDA agencies. In mediation, a trained, impartial mediator helps participants review and discuss their conflicts, identify options to resolve disputes and agree on solutions. Ideally, this process helps avoid expensive and time-consuming administrative appeals and/or litigation.

These grants are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Cases covered by the grants include agricultural loans, whether made by USDA or commercial lenders, and disputes involving USDA actions on farm and conservation programs, wetland determinations, rural water loan programs, grazing on national forest system lands, pesticides, rural housing and business loans, and crop insurance.

HOW MEDIATION WORKS

USDA program participants are offered the opportunity to request mediation prior to a formal administrative appeal. If this option is requested, some state programs provide assistance to prepare participants for the mediation session, which is held at a time and place convenient to all parties.

Unlike a judge or arbitrator, the mediator has no decision-making authority and is present only to help participants discuss and explore their issues in a useful, non-confrontational manner. Successful mediation is based on the cooperation and involvement of all participants.

Mediation can be accomplished in one meeting or may take several sessions depending on the complexity of the issues and the number of participants. If an agreement is not reached, the case is closed and all parties remain free to pursue

other available administrative appeals and/or legal action.

MEDIATION BENEFITS

Successful mediation benefits participants in the following ways:

- Mediation may resolve disputes within a participant's financial means, providing a low-cost alternative to appeals or often expensive litigation and bankruptcy;
- The program may reduce stress caused by lengthy litigation. While it can take years for a case to filter through the courts, mediation generally takes only a few meetings to complete; and
- Mediation is confidential. Documents are not used for any other legal action against the participants.

COST TO PARTICIPANTS

Some state programs charge mediation participants a nominal fee for mediation services. This varies from state to state, and anyone considering mediation should inquire about fees when discussing the possibility of exercising this option.

STATE MEDIATION PROGRAM CONTACTS

The following is a list of contacts for states having state-certified mediation programs designated by the Governor or Designee. When mediation services are needed in a non-certified state, FSA contracts with a reputable mediator in the general public. If your state is not listed, please contact your local FSA office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit your local FSA office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs	
<p>Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Email: mediation@agi.alabama.gov www.agi.alabama.gov</p>	<p>Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (808) 447-1790 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org</p>
<p>Arizona Ag Mediation Institute, Inc. 572 N. Mondel Drive Gilbert, AZ 85233-4114 Phone: (480) 496-5926 Email: janet.wertsch@azagmediation.org or eric.thor@azagmediation.org www.azagmediation.org</p>	<p>Idaho Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 2100 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 320 Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (208) 665-7958 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com or jhebner@fulcrumdispute.com www.fulcrumdispute.com</p>
<p>Arkansas Development Finance Authority Arkansas Farmer Mediation Program 900 West Capitol, Suite 310 Little Rock, AR 72201 Phone: (501) 682-5900 Email: Jack.bell@adfa.arkansas.gov http://adfa.arkansas.gov/</p>	<p>Illinois Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc. P.O. Box 1136 Carbondale, IL 62903 Phone: (618) 549-1300 Email: iamp@ari-inc.org www.ilagmediation.org</p>
<p>California Agricultural Mediation Program 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org</p>	<p>Indiana Ag Mediation of Rural Services of Indiana, Inc. 60918 U.S. 31 South South Bend, IN 46614 Phone: (574) 299-9460 Email: ramor@comcast.net www.ruralservicesonline.org</p>
<p>Colorado Agricultural Mediation Program 2331 West 31st Avenue Denver, CO 80211 Phone: (303) 477-0076 Email: marka.gallegos@state.co.us</p>	<p>Iowa Mediation Service, Inc. 1441 29th Street, Suite 120 West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 Email: infor@iowamediationservice.com www.iowamediationservice.com</p>
<p>Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program Quinnipiac Law School Center on Dispute Resolution 275 Mt. Carmel Avenue Hamden, CT 06518 Phone: (800) 870-2577 Email: CTAMP@Quinnipiac.edu or CTAgMediation@Quinnipiac.edu</p>	<p>Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services Kansas State University 2A Edwards Hall 1810 Kerr Drive Manhattan, KS 66506-4806 Phone: (785) 532-6958 Email: kams@ksu.edu www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams</p>
<p>Florida Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Education Resources, Inc. 516 S. Creyts Road, Suite A East Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 334-0034 Email: resolve@drer.org www.agmediation.org</p>	<p>Maine Agricultural Mediation Program Volunteers of America Northern New England 14 Maine Street, Suite 100 Brunswick, ME 04011 Phone: (207) 373-1140 ext. 229 or (207) 373-1140 ext. 238 Email: mediate@voanne.org or elain.bourne@voanne.org http://www.voanne.org</p>
<p>Georgia Agriculture Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund 2769 Church Street East Point, GA 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: monicarainge@federation.coop www.federation.coop</p>	<p>Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service (ACReS) 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5770 or (410) 841-5778 http://www.marylandacres.org</p>

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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs	
<p>Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration University of Massachusetts Boston 100 Morrissey Boulevard, M-1-627 Boston, MA 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4040 or (617) 287-4046 Email: mopc@umb.edu or Courtney.breese@umb.edu www.mopc.umb.edu</p>	<p>New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) P.O. Box 330 369 South Warren St. Trenton, NJ 08625 Phone: (609) 984-2504 or (609) 984-6323 Email: david.kimmel@ag.state.nj.us http://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/</p>
<p>Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Education Resources, Inc. 516 South Creyts Road, Suite A Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 485-2274 www.agmediation.org</p>	<p>New Mexico Agricultural Mediation Program New Mexico State University/Cooperative Extension Service P.O. Box 30003, MSC 3AE Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003 Phone: (575) 646-2925 or (800) 289-6577 Fax: (575) 646-3808 Email: emw@nmsu.edu http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/nmamp/index.html</p>
<p>Regents of the University of Minnesota Sponsored Projects Administration 200 Oak Street SE, Suite 450 Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070 Phone: (612) 624-5599 Email: awards@umn.edu www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/farmer-lender-mediation</p>	<p>New York State Agricultural Mediation Program 2500 Pondview, Suite 104 Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033 Phone: (518) 238-4354 Email: dkos@nycourts.gov www.nysamp.com/</p>
<p>Mississippi Ag Mediation Program c/o Mississippi Association of Cooperatives (MAC) 233 E. Hamilton Street Jackson, MS 39202 Phone: (888) 412-8276 Email: msagmediation@gmail.com www.mississippiassociation.coop</p>	<p>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program (NCAMP) Western Carolina University College of Business 1 University Drive Forsyth 122G Cullowhee, NC 28723 Phone: (336) 303-0466, (704) 724-9429 or (828) 227-3567 Email: ncampoutreach@bellsouth.net or bsclarke@email.wcu.edu www.ncamediation.org/</p>
<p>Missouri Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box 630 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520 Email: mediate@mda.mo.gov</p>	<p>North Dakota Department of Agriculture North Dakota Mediation Service 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 602 Bismarck, ND 58505-0020 Phone: (701) 328-1496 Fax: (701) 328-1496 Email: ndms@nd.gov www.nd.gov/ndda https://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/north-dakota-mediation-service</p>
<p>Montana Agriculture Mediation Program P.O. Box 200201 Helena, MT 59620-0201 Phone: (406) 444-5424 Email: Ag.mediation@mt.gov www.Agmediation.mt.gov</p>	<p>Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program 2800 North Lincoln Boulevard, 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4207 Phone: (405) 521-3934 or (800) 248-5465 Email: mediation@ag.ok.gov www.ok.gov/mediation/</p>
<p>Negotiations Program Nebraska Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 94947 Lincoln, NE 68509-4947 Phone: (800) 446-4071 Email: Karla.Bahm@nebraska.gov www.negotiations.nebraska.gov</p>	<p>Oregon USDA Agricultural Mediation Program c/o Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center P.O. Box 1594 Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: (541) 386-1283 or (888) 628-4101 Email: marti@6rivers.org http://www.6rivers.org/</p>
<p>New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (603) 685-4780 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Agricultural Mediation Program Penn State University, Penn State Law 120 Land & Water Research Building University Park, PA 16802 Phone: (814) 863-6441 Email: gmg205@psu.edu https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/academics/research-centers/center-agricultural-and-shale-law</p>

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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs	
Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program (Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island) 500 Broad St., Unit 4B Providence, RI 02907 Phone: (401) 273-9999 Email: agmediationri@gmail.com or infor@cmcri.org http://www.cmcri.org/agricultural-mediation.html	Farm Agricultural Resources & Mediation in Virginia (FARM-VA) Western Carolina University College of Business 122 G Forsyth Cullowhee, NC 28723 Phone: (336) 272-2722, (704) 724-9429 or (828) 227-3567 Email: farmva@att.net or bsclarke@email.wcu.edu
South Dakota Agricultural Mediation Program c/o South Department of Agriculture 523 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501 Phone: (605) 773-5436 or (605) 280-4745 http://sdda.sd.gov	Washington Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 211 West Augusta Spokane, WA 99205 Phone: (509) 838-2799 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com or jhebner@fulcrumdispute.com www.fulcrumdispute.com/
Texas Rural Mediation Services Office of Dispute Resolution, Lubbock County P.O. Box 10536 Lubbock, TX 79408 Phone: (806) 775-1720 or 1-866-329-3522 Email: odr@co.lubbock.tx.us	Wisconsin Farm Mediation & Arbitration Program 2811 Agriculture Drive Madison, WI 53718 Phone: (608) 224-5138 http://datep.wi.gov/
Utah Agricultural Mediation Program Utah Department of Agriculture and Food P.O. Box 146500 350 North Redwood Road Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500 Phone: (801) 538-4976 Email: mure@utah.gov http://ag.utah.gov/legal-mediation.html	Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resources Mediation Program 2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002 Phone: (307) 777-8788 Email: lucy.pauley@wyo.gov http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/nrp/mediation-program
Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org	

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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