



Farm Service Agency

Agricultural Mediation Program

FACT SHEET
January 2021

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 lender 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. This process helps to 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 are able to 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-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 <https://www.fsa.usda.gov>. To find your local FSA office, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/index>.



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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs

<p>Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries</p> <p>1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Email: mediation@agi.alabama.gov Scott.absher@agi.alabama.gov Website: www.agi.alabama.gov</p>	<p>Montana Agricultural Mediation Program Montana Department of Agriculture</p> <p>302 N. Roberts Post Office Box 200201 Helena, Montana 59601 Phone: (406) 444-9126 Email: Ag.mediation@mt.gov Website: https://agr.mt.gov/Ag-Mediation</p>
<p>Arizona Agricultural Mediation Program Arizona Ag Mediation Institute, Inc.</p> <p>572 Model Drive Gilbert, Arizona 85233 Phone/Fax: (480) 496-5926 Email: ericho211@gmail.com Website: www.arizonaagmediation.org</p>	<p>Nebraska Agricultural Mediation Program Negotiations Agricultural Solutions</p> <p>Post Office Box 94947 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4947 Phone: (800) 446-4071 Email: karla.hahm@nebraska.gov Website: www.negotiation.nebraska.gov</p>
<p>Arkansas Agricultural Mediation Program Arkansas Department of Agriculture</p> <p>1 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 Phone: (501) 225-1598 Email: camidavis@agriculture.arkansas.gov Website: www.agriculture.arkansas.gov</p>	<p>New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (New Hampshire)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, Vermont 05660 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.nhamp.org</p>
<p>California Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (California)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, Vermont 05660 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.calamp.org</p>	<p>New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee</p> <p>Post Office Box 330 369 South Warren St. Trenton, New Jersey 08625-033 Phone: (609) 984-2504 or (609) 984-6323 Email: David.kimmel@ag.state.nj.us Website: https://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/</p>
<p>Colorado Agricultural Mediation Program Colorado Department of Agriculture</p> <p>305 Interlocken Parkway Broomfield, Colorado 80021 Phone: (303) 869-9090 Fax: (303) 466-2860 Email: leif.jacobsen@state.co.us Website: www.colorado.gov/ag/ics</p>	<p>New Mexico Agricultural Mediation Program New Mexico State University/Cooperative Extension Service</p> <p>Post Office Box 30003, MSC 3AE Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-0003 Phone: (800) 289-6577 or (575) 646-2925 Fax: (575) 646-3808 Email: emw@nmsu.edu Website: https://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/nmamp/index.html</p>
<p>Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program Quinnipiac School of Law Center on Dispute Resolution</p> <p>275 Mount Carmel Avenue Hamden, Connecticut 06518 Phone: (800) 870-2577 Email: CTAMP@quinnipiac.edu Website: www.CTAgMediation.org</p>	<p>New York Agricultural Mediation Program New York State Dispute Resolution Association, Inc.</p> <p>4 Pine West Plaza, Suite 411 Albany, New York 12205 Phone: (518) 687-2240 Email: claudia@nysdra.org Website: www.nysamp.com</p>



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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs

<p>Florida Agricultural Mediation Program Roundtable Strategies</p> <p>516 South Creyts Road, Suite A Lansing, Michigan 48917 Phone: (517) 334-003 Fax: (800) 283-7531 Email: kate.pigott@agmediation.org Website: www.agmediation.org</p>	<p>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program Western Carolina University College of Business</p> <p>7 Killian Bldg. Lane 104 Forsyth Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723 Phone: (404) 277-8515 Email: ncampoutreach@bellsouth.net jogden@clayton.edu Website: https://www.ncmediation.org/</p>
<p>Georgia Agricultural Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund</p> <p>2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Fax: (404) 765-9178 Email: monicarainge@federation.coop Website: https://www.federation.coop/</p>	<p>North Dakota Agricultural Mediation Program North Dakota Department of Agriculture</p> <p>600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602 Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0020 Phone: (701) 328-4158 Email: ndms@nd.gov Website: www.nd.gov/ndda</p>
<p>Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (Hawaii)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, Vermont 05660 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.hiamp.org</p>	<p>Oklahoma Agricultural Mediation Program Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program</p> <p>2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4207 Phone: (800) 248-5465 or (405) 521-3934 Fax: (405) 521-3926 Email: mediation@ag.ok.gov Website: www.ok.gov/mediation</p>
<p>Idaho Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic</p> <p>2150 N. Main, Suite 345 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com Website: https://www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>	<p>Oregon Agricultural Mediation Program Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center</p> <p>601 Cascade Avenue Hood River, Oregon 97031 Phone: (541) 386-1283 Email: office@6rivers.org Website: www.6rivers.org</p>
<p>Illinois Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc.</p> <p>P.O. Box 1136 Carbondale, Illinois 62903 Phone: (618) 549-1300 Email: mgreathouse@dri-inc.org Website: iamp@dri-inc.org</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Agricultural Mediation Program c/o Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law</p> <p>329 Innovation Blvd., Suite 118 University Park, Pennsylvania 16802 Phone: (814) 865-4290 Email: AgMediation@pennstatelaw.psu.edu Website: www.pagmediation.org</p>
<p>Indiana Agricultural Mediation Program Rural Services of Indiana</p> <p>60918 US 31 S South Bend, Indiana 46614 Phone: (574) 299-9640 Email: RSI.ramor@gmail.com Website: https://www.ruralservices.net/</p>	<p>Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island</p> <p>641 Bald Hill Rd., Suite #201 Warwick, Rhode Island Phone: (401) 273-9999 Email: AgMediationRI@gmail.com Website: http://www.cmcric.org/</p>
<p>Maine Agricultural Mediation Program The University of Maine Cooperative Extension</p> <p>5717 Corbett Hall Orono, Maine 04469-5717 Phone: (207) 581-1484 Email: umgrants@maine.edu</p>	<p>Utah Agricultural Mediation Program Utah Department of Agriculture and Food</p> <p>Post Office Box 146500 Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-6500 Phone: (801) 982-2200 Email: pgessel@utah.gov Website: https://ag.utah.gov/office-of-the-commissioner/ag-mediation/</p>



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<p>Maryland Agricultural Mediation Program Maryland Department of Agriculture</p> <p>50 Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5778 Fax: (410) 841-5987 Email: kay-megan.washington1@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. (Vermont)</p> <p>177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, Vermont 05660 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.vtamp.org</p>
<p>Massachusetts Agricultural Mediation Program A program of the Massachusetts Office Of Public Collaboration University of Massachusetts Boston</p> <p>100 Morrissey Blvd., M-1-627 Boston, Massachusetts 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4040 Fax: (617) 287-4049 Email: mopc@umb.edu or Courtney.breese@umb.edu Website: https://www.umb.edu/mopc/what_we_do/projects/agricultural_mediation_program</p>	<p>Virginia Agricultural Mediation Program Western Carolina University College of Business</p> <p>7 Killian Bldg. Lane 104 Forsyth Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723 Phone: (404) 277-8515 Email: farmva@att.net jogden@clayton.edu Website: http://www.farmva.org/</p>
<p>Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program Roundtable Strategies</p> <p>516 South Creyts Road, Suite A Lansing, Michigan 48917 Phone: (517) 334-003 Fax: (800) 283-7531 Email: kate.pigott@agmediation.org Website: www.agmediation.org</p>	<p>Washington Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic</p> <p>211 West Augusta Spokane, Washington 99205 Phone: (509) 838-2799 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com Website: https://www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>
<p>Minnesota Agricultural Mediation Program Farmer Lender Mediation Program</p> <p>1526 170th Avenue Bejou, Minnesota 56516 Phone: (218) 935-5785 Email: preis002@umn.edu Website: https://extension.umn.edu/get-help/farmer-lender-mediation</p>	<p>Wisconsin Agricultural Mediation Program Wisconsin Farmer Mediation and Arbitration Program Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection</p> <p>2811 Agriculture Drive Post Office Box 8911 Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8911 Phone: (800) 942-2474 Email: farmcenter@wisconsin.gov Website: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/FarmMediation.aspx</p>
<p>Mississippi Agricultural Mediation Program Mississippi Association of Cooperatives</p> <p>233 E. Hamilton St. Jackson, Mississippi 39202 Phone: (888) 412-8376 Fax: (888) 412-8324 Email: msagmediation@gmail.com Website: http://www.mississippiassociation.coop/</p>	<p>Wyoming Agricultural Mediation Program Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resources Mediation Program</p> <p>2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0100 Phone: (307) 777-8788 Email: lucy.pauley@wyo.gov Website: http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/nrp/mediation-program</p>
<p>Missouri Agricultural Mediation Program Missouri Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Post Office Box 630 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520 Email: mediate@mda.mo.gov</p>	