



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Revised August 2013

Agricultural Mediation Program

Overview

The USDA Agricultural Mediation Program makes grants to state-designated entities that provide alternative dispute resolution (ADR) 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.
- 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 states have state-certified mediation programs that have been designated by the Governor or Designee. When mediation with FSA is needed in a state without a certified program, a reputable mediator from the private sector can provide those services, and FSA will pay half of the cost. If your state is not listed here, ask your local FSA office for assistance in locating a mutually acceptable mediator.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

State Mediation Program Contacts

<p>Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program 1445 Federal Drive, Montgomery, AL 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 or (256) 526-7724 Fax: (334) 240-7190 Website: www.agi.alabama.gov/ag-mediation</p>	<p>Illinois Agriculture Mediation Program P.O. Box 1136, Carbondale, IL 62903-1136 Phone: (618) 549-1300 Fax: (618) 351-1419 Website: www.dri-inc.org</p>
<p>Arizona Agricultural Mediation Program 13641 South 33rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85044-3608 Phone: (480) 496-5926</p>	<p>Indiana Agricultural Mediation Program 60918 U.S. 31, South, South Bend, IN 46614 Phone: (574) 299-9648 Fax: (574) 299-9666</p>
<p>Arkansas Farm/Creditor Mediation Program P.O. Box 8023, Little Rock, AR 72203 Phone: (501) 682-5895 Fax: (501) 682-5893 Website: www.state.ar.us/adfa/index.html</p>	<p>Iowa Mediation Services, Inc. 1025 Ashworth Rd., Suite 504 West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 Fax: (515) 331-8085</p>
<p>Common Ground: Center for Cooperative Solutions UC Davis Extension 1333 Research Park Drive, Davis, CA 95616 Phone: (530) 757-8777 Fax: (530) 757-8558 Website: http://extension.ucdavis.edu/unit/common_ground</p>	<p>Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services Kansas State University, 2A Edwards Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4806 Phone: (785) 532-6958 Fax: (785) 532-6532 Website: www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams</p>
<p>Colorado Agricultural Mediation Program 2331 West 31st Ave., Denver, CO 80211 Phone: (303) 867-9213 Fax: (303) 480-9236</p>	<p>Louisiana State Agricultural Mediation Program Southern University Law Center P.O. Box 9294, Baton Rouge, LA 70813 Phone: (225) 771-4900 Fax: (225) 771-2474 Website: www.suagcenter.com/LAMP/lamp_info.html</p>
<p>Florida Agricultural Mediation Service P.O. Box 110240, Gainesville, FL 32611-0240 Phone: (352) 846-1511 Fax: (352) 392-0240 Website: www.fams.ifas.ufl.edu</p>	<p>Maine Agricultural Mediation Program Volunteers of America 14 Maine St., Suite 301, Brunswick, ME 04011 Phone: (207) 373-1140 Fax: (207) 373-1160</p>
<p>Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program c/o Hawaii Department of Agriculture 1428 South King St., Honolulu, HI 96814 Phone: (808) 447-1790 Fax: (802) 277-3343 Website: www.hiamp.org</p>	<p>Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (800) 492-5590 Fax: (410) 841-5987 Website: www.marylandacres.org</p>
<p>Idaho Agricultural Mediation Program 2011 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 320 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (208) 665-7958</p>	<p>Massachusetts Agricultural Mediation Program University of Massachusetts, Boston, McCormack Building, M-1-627, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4048 Fax: (617) 287-4049</p>

State Mediation Program Contacts, Continued

<p>Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program DRER, 516 South Creyts Rd., Suite A Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 485-2274 Fax: (517) 485-1183</p>	<p>New Mexico Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box 30003, MSC 3AE, Las Cruces, NM 88003 Phone: (575) 646-2433 Fax: (575) 646-3808 Website: www.cahe.nmsu.edu/nmamp</p>
<p>Minnesota Farmer Lender Mediation Program 1526 170th Ave., Bejou, MN 56516-9736 Phone: (218) 935-5785 Fax: (218) 935-9053 Website: www.extension.umn.edu/mediation</p>	<p>New York State Agricultural Mediation Program State Unified Court System 98 Niver Street, Cohoes, NY 12047 Phone: (518) 238-4354 Fax: (518) 238-2951 Website: www.nysamp.com</p>
<p>Mississippi Agriculture Mediation Program 341 Hamilton St., Jackson, MS 39202 Phone: (888) 914-9941 Fax: (601) 354-2777</p>	<p>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program Western Carolina University 202 Forsyth, Cullowee, NC 28723 Phone: (828) 227-7191 Fax: (828) 227-7417</p>
<p>Missouri Ag Mediation Program P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520 Fax: (573) 751-5516</p>	<p>North Dakota Mediation Service 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602 Bismarck, ND 58505-0020 Phone: (701) 328-4756 Fax: (701) 328-4567</p>
<p>Montana Agricultural Mediation Program 211 West Augusta Ave., Spokane, WA 99205 Phone: (406) 587-9091 Fax: (509) 838-5588</p>	<p>Oklahoma Agricultural Mediation Program, Inc. 2800 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105 Phone: (405) 521-3934 Fax: (405) 521-3926 Website: www.ok.gov/mediation</p>
<p>Nebraska Farm Mediation Service P.O. Box 94947, Lincoln, NE 68509-4947 Phone: (402) 471-6890 Fax: (402) 471-2759</p>	<p>Oregon Certified Agricultural Mediation Program 205 Wasco Loop, Suite 101, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: (541) 386-1283 Fax: (541) 386-2189 Website: www.6rivers.org</p>
<p>New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program NH Dept. of Agriculture P.O. Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302 Phone: (603) 685-4780 Fax: (802) 277-3343 Website: www.nhamp.org</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box C, Tunkhannock, PA 18657 Phone: (717) 705-7960 Fax: (717) 705-8402</p>
<p>New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330 Phone: (609) 984-2504 Fax: (609) 633-2004 Website: www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc</p>	<p>Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island 570 Broad Street, 2nd Floor Carriage House Providence, RI 02907 Phone: (401) 273-9999 Fax: (401) 273-7311</p>

State Mediation Program Contacts, Continued

South Dakota Agricultural Loan Mediation Services 523 East Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-3182 Phone: (605) 773-5436 Fax: (605) 377-3481 Website: www.state.sd.us/doa/ag_dev/mediation	Virginia State Agricultural Mediation Program Virginia State University P.O. Box 9081, Petersburg, VA 23806 Phone: (804) 524-5470 Fax: (804) 524-5714
Texas Rural Mediation Services P.O. Box 10536, Lubbock, TX 79408 Phone: (806) 775-1720 Fax: (806) 775-1729	Washington Agricultural Mediation Program 211 West Augusta Ave., Spokane, WA 99205 Phone: (509) 838-2799 Fax: (509) 838-5588
Utah Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box 146500, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500 Phone: (801) 538-7102 Fax: (801) 538-4939	Wisconsin Farm Mediation & Arbitration Program 2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison, WI 53708-8911 Phone: (608) 224-5084 Fax: (608) 224-5107 Website: http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Wisconsin_Farm_Center/Farm_Mediation/index.aspx
Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program 177 Paddy Hill Rd., Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (802) 583-1100 Fax: (802) 277-3343 Website: www.vtamp.org	Wyoming Agriculture Mediation Program 2219 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100 Phone: (307) 777-8788 Fax: (307) 777-6593