



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 (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; 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 states have state-certified mediation programs that have been 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. A list of certified states and their mediation contacts are attached. 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>.

State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs

<p>Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program (AAMP) Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Toll Free: (800) 642-7761 Ext. 7151 Fax: (334) 240-7193 www.agi.alabama.gov</p>	<p>Idaho Agricultural Mediation Program (IAMP) Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 2100 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 320 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (509) 838-5588 http://www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>
<p>Arizona Ag Mediation Institute, Inc. 572 N. Mondel Dr. Gilbert, AZ 85233 Phone/Fax: (480) 496-5926 www.azagmediation.org</p>	<p>Illinois Agricultural Mediation Program (IAMP) Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc. P.O. Box 1136 Carbondale, IL 62903-1136 Phone: (618) 549-1300 Fax: (618) 351-1419 http://www.dri-inc.org/</p>
<p>Arkansas Development Finance Authority Arkansas Farm/Creditor Mediation Program 900 West Capitol, Suite 310 Little Rock, AR 72201 Phone: (501) 682-5900 Fax: (501) 682-5939 http://www.arkansas.gov/adfa/</p>	<p>Indiana Agricultural Mediation Program Rural Services of Indiana, Inc. 60918 U.S. 31, South South Bend, IN 46614 Toll Free: (800) 288-6581 Fax: (574) 299-9648 http://www.comprehensivecreditcounseling.com/</p>
<p>California Agricultural Mediation Program California Department of Food & Agriculture 1220 N. Street, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (800) 511-2213 www.cdfa.ca.gov</p>	<p>Iowa Mediation Services, Inc. 1441 29th Street, Suite 120 West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 Fax: (515) 331-8085 http://www.iowamediationservice.com/</p>
<p>Colorado Department of Agriculture Colorado Agricultural Mediation Program (CAMP) 2331 West 31st Avenue Denver, CO 80211-3859 Phone: (303) 477-0076 Fax: (303) 480-9236 www.colorado.gov/ag/ics</p>	<p>Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) Kansas State University 2A Edwards Hall 1810 Kerr Drive Manhattan, KS 66506-4806 Phone: (785) 532-6958 Toll Free: (800) 321-3276 Fax: (785) 532-6532 http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/kams/</p>
<p>State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture Quinnipiac University Center on Dispute Resolution 275 Mt. Carmel Avenue Hamden, CT 06518 Phone: (203) 582-3200 Fax: (203) 582-4108 www.quinnipiac.edu</p>	<p>Maine Agricultural Mediation Program Volunteers of America Northern New England 14 Maine Street, Suite 301 Brunswick, ME 04011 Phone: (207) 373-1140 Ext. 229 Fax: (207) 373-1160 http://www.voanne.org/mediation-services</p>
<p>University of Florida Florida Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box 110240 Gainesville, FL 32611-0240 Phone: (352) 846-1511 Fax: (352) 392-0240 http://www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/staff/</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Agriculture Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401 Toll Free: (800) 492-5590 Phone: (410) 841-5880 Fax: (410) 841-5894 www.mda.maryland.gov</p>
<p>Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program (HIAMP) 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 http://hiamp.emcenter.org/ Phone: (802) 583-1100 Toll Free: (800) 511-2213 Hawaii Department of Agriculture 1428 South King Street Honolulu, HI 96814 http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/</p>	<p>Massachusetts Agricultural Mediation Program University of Massachusetts, Boston Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration McCormack Building, M-1-627 100 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4040 Fax: (617) 287-4049 www.mopc.umb.edu</p>

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<p>Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Education Resources, Inc. (DRER) 516 South Creyts Road, Suite A Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 485-2274 Fax: (517) 485-1183 http://www.mediationmichigan.org/index.php?id=12090</p>	<p>New Mexico Agricultural Mediation Program (NMAMP) Regents of New Mexico State University Office of Grants and Contracts P.O. Box 30003, MSC 3AE Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003 Phone: (575) 646-2925 or (800) 289-6577 Fax: (575) 646-3808 http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/nmamp/index.html</p>
<p>Minnesota Farmer Lender Mediation Program University of Minnesota 1526 170th Avenue Bejou, MN 56516-9736 Phone: (218) 935-5785 Fax: (218) 935-9053 www.extension.umn.edu</p>	<p>New York State Agricultural Mediation Program State Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs New York State Unified Court System 4 Pine West Plaza Suite 411 Albany, NY 12205 Phone: (866) 669-7267 Fax: (518) 687-2245 http://www.nysamp.com/</p>
<p>Mississippi Association of Cooperatives Mississippi Agriculture Mediation Program 233 E. Hamilton Street Jackson, MS 39225 Phone: (601) 354-2750 Fax: (601) 354-2777 http://www.mississippiassociation.coop/</p>	<p>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program (NCAMP) Western Carolina University 110 Cordelia Camp Building Cullowee, NC 28723 Phone: (828) 227-7191 Fax: (828) 227-7417 http://www.wcu.edu/</p>
<p>Missouri Department of Agriculture Missouri Ag Mediation Program P.O. Box 630 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520 Fax: (573) 751-5516 www.mediate@mda.mo.gov</p>	<p>North Dakota Department of Agriculture North Dakota Mediation State State Capitol 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 602 Bismarck, ND 58505-0020 Phone: (701) 328-2231 Toll Free: (800) 242-7535 Fax: (701) 328-4567 www.nd.gov/ndda</p>
<p>Montana Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 2100 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 320 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (509) 838-5588 http://www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>	<p>Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program, Inc. 2800 North Lincoln Boulevard, 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73105 Office: (405) 521-3934 Toll Free: (800) 248-5465 Fax: (405) 521-3926 https://www.ok.gov/mediation/</p>
<p>State of Nebraska Department of Agriculture Nebraska Farm Mediation Service P.O. Box 94947 Lincoln, NE 68509-4947 Phone: (402) 471-2341 Fax: (402) 471-6876 www.nda.nebraska.gov</p>	<p>Oregon Certified Agricultural Mediation Program Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center P.O. Box 1594 Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: (541) 386-1283 Toll Free: (888) 628-4101 Fax: (541) 386-2189 http://www.6rivers.org/</p>
<p>Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program (NHAMP) 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (800) 511-2213 http://nhamp.emcenter.org/</p> <p>New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food P.O. Box 2042 Concord, NH 03302-2042 http://agriculture.nh.gov/</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Agricultural Mediation Program Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110 Phone: (717) 787-4737 www.agriculture.state.pa.us</p>
<p>New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box 330 Trenton, NJ 08625 Phone: (609) 984-2504 or (609) 292-7988 Fax: (609) 633-2004 http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/</p>	<p>Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island 500 Broad St., Unit 4-B Providence, RI 02907 Phone: (401) 273-9999 Toll Free: (855) 343-0072 Fax: (401) 632-0504 www.cmcri.org</p>

State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs

State of South Dakota Department of Agriculture South Dakota Agricultural Loan Mediation Services 523 East Capitol Avenue Joe Foss Building, 3 rd Floor Pierre, SD 57501-3182 Phone: (605) 773-5425 Fax: (605) 773-3481 http://sdda.sd.gov	Virginia State Agricultural Mediation Program Western Carolina University 110 Cordelia Camp Building Cullowee, NC 28723 Phone: (828) 227-7191 Fax: (828) 227-7417 http://www.wcu.edu/
Texas Rural Mediation Services Office of Dispute Resolution, Lubbock County P.O. Box 10536 Lubbock, TX 79408 Telephone: (806) 775-1087 Fax: (806) 775-7950 https://www.co.lubbock.tx.us/departments/division.php?fDD=8-36	Washington Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 211 West Augusta Spokane, WA 99205 Phone: (509) 838-2799 Fax: (509) 838-5588 http://www.fulcrumdispute.com/
Utah Agricultural Mediation Program Utah Department of Agriculture and Food P.O. Box 146500 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500 Phone: (801) 538-7100 Fax: (801) 538-7126 http://ag.utah.gov	State of Wisconsin Wisconsin Farm Mediation & Arbitration Program Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection P.O. Box 8911 Madison, WI 53708-8911 Phone: (608) 224-5012 http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Wisconsin_Farm_Center/Farm_Mediation/index.aspx
Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program (VTAMP) 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (802) 583-1100 Ext. 101 Toll Free: (800) 511-2213 http://vtamp.emcenter.org/	Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Mediation Program Wyoming Department of Agriculture 2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100 Phone: (307) 777-7321 Fax: (307) 777-6593 http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/nrp/mediation-program

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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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