



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 (AAMP) 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Email: Scott.absher@agi.alabama.gov www.agi.alabama.gov/divisions/ag-mediation</p>	<p>Georgia Agriculture Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund 2769 Church Street East Point, GA 30344-3258 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Fax: (404) 765-9178 Email: monicarainge@federation.coop</p>
<p>Arizona USDA Certified Mediation Program 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>Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program c/o Hawaii Department of Agriculture 1428 South King Street Honolulu, HI 96814 Phone: (808) 447-1790 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org http://hiamp.org/</p>
<p>Arkansas Development Finance Authority Farmer/Creditor Mediation Program 900 West Capitol, Suite 310 Little Rock, AR 72201 Phone: (501) 682-5895 Email: Jack.bell@adfa.arkansas.gov http://adfa.arkansas.gov/</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 www.fulcrumdispute.com</p>
<p>California Agricultural Mediation Program c/o California Department of Food & Agriculture 1220 N. Street, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 654-0433 Email: kevin.masuhara@cdfa.ca.gov www.calamp.org</p> <p>Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Email: matts@emcenter.org (916) 330-4500 ext. 101</p>	<p>Illinois Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc. P.O. Box 1136 Carbondale, IL 62903 Phone: (618) 549-1300 ext. 1001 www.ilagmediation.org</p>
<p>Colorado Agricultural Mediation Program 2331 West 31st Avenue Denver, CO 80211-3859 Phone: (303) 867-9213 Email: marka.gallegos@state.co.us www.colorado.gov/pacific/aginspection/colorado-agricultural-mediation-program-camp</p>	<p>Indiana Ag Mediation of Rural Services of Indiana, Inc. 60918 U.S. 31 South South Bend, IN 46614 Phone: (574) 299-9460 www.ruralservicesonline.org</p>
<p>Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program Quinnipiac Law School Center on Dispute Resolution Mail Drop: LW-CLN 275 Mt. Carmel Avenue Hamden, CT 06518 Phone: 1-800-870-2577 Email: CTAgMediation@Quinnipiac.edu</p>	<p>Iowa Mediation Service, Inc. 1441 29th Street, Suite 120 West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 Email: kiley@iowamediationservice.com www.iowamediationservice.com/</p>
<p>Florida Agricultural Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Education Resources, Inc. 516 S. Creyts Road, Suite A East Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 334-0030 Email: resolve@drer.org</p>	<p>Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services Kansas State University 2A Edwards Hall 1810 Kerr Drive Manhattan, KS 66506-4806 Phone: (785) 532-6958 Toll Free: 1-800-321-3276 Email: fbuhler@ksu.edu or char@ksu.edu www.ksre.k-state.edu/kams/</p>

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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs	
<p>Maine Agricultural Mediation Program Volunteers of America - Community Mediation Services 14 Maine Street, Suite 301 Brunswick, ME 04011 Phone: (207) 373-1140 ext. 229 Email: mediate@voanne.org http://www.voanne.org</p>	<p>Negotiations Program Nebraska Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 94947 Lincoln, NE 68509-4947 Phone: 1-800-446-4071 or (402) 471-6890 Email: Karla.Bahm@nebraska.gov www.negotiations.nebraska.gov</p>
<p>Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service (Maryland ACReS) 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5778; (410) 841-5770 Email: kay-megan.washington1@maryland.gov www.marylandacres.com</p>	<p>New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program c/o New Hampshire Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 2042 Concord, NH 03302-2042 Phone: (603) 685-4780 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org http://nhamp.org/</p>
<p>Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration University of Massachusetts Boston 100 Morrissey Boulevard, M-1-627 Boston, MA 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4046 or (617) 287-4040 Email: mopc@umb.edu or Courtney.breese@umb.edu www.umb.edu/mopc/what_we_do/projects/agricultural_mediation_program</p>	<p>New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee P.O. Box 330 369 South Warren St. Trenton, NJ 08625 Phone: (609) 984-2504 Email: sadc@ag.state.nj.us http://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/</p>
<p>Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program 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 (MSC 3169) P.O. Box 30003, MSC 3AE Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003 Phone: (575) 646-2925 or 1-800-289-6577 Fax: (575)646-3808 http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/nmamp/index.html</p>
<p>Regents of the University of Minnesota Sponsored Projects Administration 450 McNamara Alumni Center 200 Oak Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070 Phone: (612) 624-5599 Email: awards@umn.edu www.ospa.umn.edu</p>	<p>New York State Agricultural Mediation Program 4 Pine West Plaza, Suite 411 Albany, NY 12205 Phone: (518) 687-2240 or 1-866-669-7267 Email: claudia@nysdra.org www.nysamp.com/</p>
<p>Mississippi Ag Mediation Program c/o Mississippi Association of Cooperatives (MAC) 233 E. Hamilton Street Jackson, MS 39202 Phone: (228) 731-7830 www.mississippiassociation.coop</p>	<p>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program (NCAMP) Western Carolina University College of Business 122G Forsyth Cullowhee, NC 28723 Phone: (336) 303-0466, (981) 272-8153 or (336) 272-2722 Email: ncampoutreach@bellsouth.net 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 or Joe.Walker@mda.mo.gov</p>	<p>North Dakota Department of Agriculture Mediation Service 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 602 Bismarck, ND 58505-0020 Phone: 1-800-242-7535 Phone: (701) 328-2231 www.nd.gov/ndda www.nd.gov/ndda/program/mediation-services</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, Inc. 2800 North Lincoln Boulevard, 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73105 Phone: (405) 521-3934 Toll Free: 1-800-248-5465 Email: mediation@ag.ok.gov or mike.mayberry@ag.ok.gov www.ok.gov/mediation/</p>

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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs	
<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 http://www.6rivers.org/</p>	<p>Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org www.vtamp.org</p>
<p>Pennsylvania Agricultural Mediation Program Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110 Phone: (717) 787-5653 Email: suewest@pa.gov www.agriculture.pa.gov</p>	<p>Farm Agricultural Resources & Mediation in Virginia (FARM-VA) Western Carolina University College of Business 122G Forsyth Cullowhee, NC 28723 Phone: (336) 303-0466, (981) 272-8153 or (336) 272-2722 Email: farmva@att.net</p>
<p>Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program (Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island) 500 Broad St., Unit 4B Providence, RI 02907 Phone: (401) 273-9999 Email: ewright@cmcri.org, agmediationri@gmail.com or tharris@cmcri.org www.cmcri.org</p>	<p>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 www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Wisconsin Farm Mediation & Arbitration Program P.O. Box 8911 Madison, WI 53708-8911 Phone: (608) 224-5138 or 1-800-942-2474 Email: John.dupusi@wi.gov or farmcenter@wi.gov http://datcp.wi.gov/</p>
<p>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 www.co.lubbock.tx.us</p>	<p>Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resources Mediation Program 2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002 Phone: (307) 777-8788 Email: lucy.pauley@wyo.gov or Julie.cook@wyo.gov http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/nrp/mediation-program</p>
<p>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 or (801) 538-7100 http://ag.utah.gov/legal-mediation.html</p>	

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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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