



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>.

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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs	
<p>Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program (AAMP) 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Toll Free: 1-800-642-7761 Ext: 7151 http://www.agi.alabama.gov/divisions/ag-mediation</p>	<p>Idaho Agricultural Mediation Program (IAMP) Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 2100 Northwest Blvd., Suite 320 Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 www.fulcrumdispute.com</p>
<p>Arizona Ag Mediation Institute, Inc. 572 N. Mondel Dr. Gilbert, AZ 85233 Phone: (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 www.ilagmediation.org</p>
<p>Arkansas Development Finance Authority 900 West Capitol, Suite 310 Little Rock, AR 72201 Attn: Farmer/Creditor Mediation Program Phone: (501) 682-5895 http://adfa.arkansas.gov/</p>	<p>Rural Services of Indiana, Inc. Ag Mediation 60918 U.S. 31 South South Bend, IN 46614 Phone: (574) 299-9460 www.ruralservicesonline.org</p>
<p>California Agricultural Mediation Program California Department of Food & Agriculture 1220 N. Street, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext.101 www.calamp.org</p> <p>CALAMP/EMC 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Email: matts@emcenter.org</p>	<p>Iowa Mediation Services, Inc. 1441 29th Street, Suite 120 West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 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) 867-9213 https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aginspection/colorado-agricultural-mediation-program-camp</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: 1-800-321-3276 http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/kams/</p>
<p>Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program (CTAMP) Quinnipiac University School of Law Center on Dispute Resolution 275 Mt. Carmel Avenue, Mail Stop Code S Hamden, CT 06518 Phone: 1-800-870-2577</p>	<p>Maine Agricultural Mediation Program – Community Mediation Services Volunteers of America Northern New England 14 Maine Street, Suite 301 Brunswick, ME 04011 Phone: (207) 373-1140 ext. 229 http://www.voanne.org</p>
<p>Florida Agricultural Mediation Program 1104A McCarty Hall P. O. Box 110240 Gainesville, FL 32611-0240 Phone: 1-888-712-9421</p>	<p>Kay-Megan Washington, Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service Maryland Department of Agriculture 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 208 Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5778 www.marylandacres.com</p>
<p>Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program (HIAMP/EMC) 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (808) 447-1790 ext. 101 http://hiamp.emcenter.org/</p> <p>Hawaii Department of Agriculture 1428 South King Street Honolulu, HI 96814</p>	<p>Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration University of Massachusetts Boston 100 Morrissey Boulevard, M-1-627 Boston, MA 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4040 www.umb.edu/mopc/projects/agricultural_mediation_program</p>

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<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 (NMAMP) NMSU/Cooperative Extension Service P. O. Box 30003, MSC 3AE Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003 Phone: (575) 646-2925 or 1-800-289-6577 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 www.ospa.umn.edu</p>	<p>New York State Agricultural Mediation Program Office of ADR Programs New York State Unified Court System 2500 Pond View Suite 104 Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033 Phone: (518) 238-4354 http://www.nysamp.com/</p>
<p>Mississippi Ag Mediation Program 233 E. Hamilton Street Jackson, MS 39202 Phone: 1-888-412-8376 www.mississippiassociation.coop</p>	<p>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program (NCAMP) Western Carolina University 202 Forsyth Cullowhee, NC 28723 Phone: (336) 303-0466 http://www.ncamediation.org/</p>
<p>Missouri Ag Mediation Program P. O. Box 630 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520</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 Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 211 West Augusta Spokane, WA 99205 Phone: (406) 587-9091 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: 1-800-248-5465 https://www.ok.gov/mediation/</p>
<p>Nebraska Farm Mediation Service Negotiations Program 301 Centennial Mall S. P. O. Box 94947 Lincoln, NE 68509-4947 Phone: 1-800-446-4071 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 http://www.6rivers.org/</p>
<p>Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program (NHAMP/EMC) 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (603) 685-4780 ext. 101 http://nhamp.org/</p> <p>New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food P.O. Box 2042 Concord, NH 03302-2042</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110 Phone: (717) 787-5653 www.agriculture.pa.gov</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 http://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/</p>	<p>Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island 500 Broad St., Unit 4B Providence, RI 02907 Phone: (401) 273-9999 www.cmcric.org</p>

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State-Certified Agricultural Mediation Programs	
South Dakota Department of Agriculture – Ag Development Mediation 523 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501 Phone: (605) 773-5436 or (605) 280-4745 http://sdda.sd.gov	Virginia State Agricultural Mediation Program Western Carolina University 202 Forsyth Cullowhee, NC 28723 Phone: (336) 303-0466 www.Farmva.org
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 www.co.lubbock.tx.us	Washington Agricultural Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 211 West Augusta Spokane, WA 99205 Phone: (509) 838-2799 www.fulcrumdispute.com/
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	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection WI Farm Mediation & Arbitration Program P.O. Box 8911 Madison, WI 53708-8911 Phone: (608) 224-5138 or 1-800-942-2474 http://datcp.wi.gov/
Environmental Mediation Center, Inc. Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program (VTAMP/EMC) 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext. 101 www.vtamp.org	Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Mediation Program 2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002 Phone: (307) 777-8788 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, audiotope, 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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