

Certified Mediation Program



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Certified Mediation Program makes grants to state-designated entities that provide alternative dispute resolution through mediation to agricultural producers, their creditors (as applicable), persons directly affected by the actions of USDA, and any other persons involved in covered issues for which mediation services are provided by a Certified Mediation Program. In mediation, a trained, impartial mediator helps participants review and discuss their conflicts, identify options to resolve disputes and agree on solutions. Mediation helps to avoid expensive and time-consuming administrative appeals and/or litigation.

These grants are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Cases that may be mediated include, but are not limited to, 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,

nonconfrontational 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.
- Mediation 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.

What Can Be Mediated

- Agricultural loans, regardless of whether the loans are made or guaranteed by USDA or made by a third party – mediation services must be provided.
- Wetland determinations.
- Compliance with farm programs, conservation programs, and the National Organic Program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.
- Rural water loan programs.

- Grazing on National Forest System lands.
- Pesticides.
- Lease issues, including land leases and equipment leases.
- Family farm transition.
- Farmer-neighbor disputes.
- Other issues as the Secretary or the head of the Agriculture Department of each participating state considers appropriate for better serving the agricultural community and persons eligible for mediation.

In addition, Certified Mediation Programs may provide credit counseling prior to the initiation of any mediation involving the USDA or unrelated to any ongoing dispute or mediation in which USDA is a party.

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>.

Cost to Participants

Certified Mediation Programs may charge participants a nominal fee for mediation services. When mediation services are needed in a state that does not have a Certified Mediation Program, FSA contracts with a reputable mediator and there may be fees participants will be required to pay. If your state is not listed, please contact your local FSA office.

Certified Mediation Programs	Certified Mediation Programs
<p>Alabama Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Email: mediation@agi.alabama.gov Website: www.agi.alabama.gov</p>	<p>Colorado Colorado Agricultural Mediation Program (CAMP) 305 Interlocken Parkway Broomfield, Colorado 80021 Phone: (303) 869-9095 Email: leif.jacobsen@state.co.us Website: https://ag.colorado.gov/ics/colorado-agricultural-mediation-program-camp</p>
<p>Alaska Alaska Agricultural Mediation Program P.O. Box 231211 Anchorage, Alaska 99507-9998 Phone: (907) 206-0096 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com Website: https://www.fulcrumdispute.com</p>	<p>Connecticut Connecticut Agricultural Mediation Program – Center on Dispute Resolution – Quinnipiac University School of Law 275 Mount Carmel Avenue Hamden, Connecticut 06518 Phone: (800) 870-2577 Email: CTAMP@quinnipiac.edu Website: www.CTAgMediation.org</p>
<p>Arizona Arizona Ag Mediation Institute, Inc. 572 N. Mondel Drive Gilbert, Arizona 85233 Phone: (480) 496-5926 Email: janet.wertsch@azagmediation.org Email: erictho211@gmail.com Website: www.arizonaagmediation.org</p>	<p>Florida Florida Agricultural Mediation Program 2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: info@federation.coop Website: https://agmediation.org https://www.federation.coop/landretention</p>
<p>Arkansas Arkansas Department of Agriculture 1 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 Phone: (501) 451-0041 Email: cami.davis@agriculture.arkansas.gov Website: www.agriculture.arkansas.gov</p>	<p>Georgia Georgia Agricultural Mediation Program 2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Fax: (404) 765-9178 Email: info@federation.coop Website: https://www.federation.coop/ https://www.federation.coop/landretention</p>
<p>California California Agricultural Mediation Program c/o California Department of Food and Agriculture 1220 N. St. Suite 400 Sacramento, California 95814 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.calamp.org</p>	<p>Hawaii Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program 1428 South King St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 Phone: (808) 447-1790 ext.101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.hiamp.org</p>

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<p>Idaho Idaho Agricultural Mediation Program 8596 N. Wayne Suite G-120 Hayden, Idaho 83835 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com Website: https://www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>
<p>Illinois Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc. P.O. Box 1136 Carbondale, Illinois 62903 Phone: (618) 549-1300 Email: iamp@dri-inc.org Website: www.dri-inc.org</p>
<p>Indiana Indiana Ag Mediation of RSI 610 Monroe Street LaPorte, Indiana 46350 Phone: (574) 299-9640 Email: RSI.ramor@gmail.com Website: https://www.ruralservices.net/</p>
<p>Iowa Iowa Mediation Service 1441 29th Street Suite 120 West Des Moines, Iowa 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 Email: infor@iowamediationservice.com Website: www.iowamediationservice.com</p>
<p>Kansas Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service K-State Research & Extension 2A Edwards Hall 1810 Kerr Drive Manhattan, Kansas 66506-4806 Phone: (800) 321-3276 Email: kams@ksu.edu Website: http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams/</p>

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<p>Louisiana Louisiana Agricultural Mediation Service 2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: info@federation.coop Website: https://www.federation.coop/ https://www.federation.coop/landretention</p>
<p>Maine Maine Agricultural Mediation Program 1 York Complex Orono, Maine 04469 Phone: (207) 581-3487 Email: maineagmediation@maine.edu Website: https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/agricultural-mediation/</p>
<p>Maryland Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution 50 Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5778 or (800) 492-5590 Fax: (410) 841-5987 Email: kay-megan.washington1@maryland.gov Website: http://www.marylandacres.com</p>
<p>Massachusetts Massachusetts Agricultural Mediation Program Massachusetts Office of Collaborations – University of Massachusetts Boston 100 Morrissey Blvd. M-1-627 Boston, Massachusetts 02125 Phone: (617) 287-4040 Email: mopc@umb.edu or Courtney.breese@umb.edu Website: https://www.umb.edu/mopc/what_we_do/projects/agricultural_mediation_program</p>
<p>Michigan Michigan Community Mediation Association 811 Ship Street Suite 302 Saint Joseph, Michigan 49085 Phone: (800) 616-7863 Email: micommunitymediationassoc@gmail.com Website: www.MICommunityMediation.org</p>

Certified Mediation Programs
<p>Minnesota Regents of the University of Minnesota Sponsored Projects Administration</p> <p>450 McNamara Alumni Center 200 Oak Street SE Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455-2070 Phone: (612) 624-5599 Email: awards@umn.edu Website: www.ospa.umn.edu</p>
<p>Mississippi Mississippi Association of Cooperatives</p> <p>233 E. Hamilton St. Jackson, Mississippi 39202 Phone: (888) 412-8376 Fax: (888) 412-8324 Email: macaccount39202@gmail.com Website: http://www.mississippiassociation.coop/</p>
<p>Missouri Missouri Department of Agriculture</p> <p>P.O. Box 630 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520 Email: mediate@mda.mo.gov Website: https://agriculture.mo.gov/grains/pdf/mediationbrochure.pdf</p>
<p>Montana Montana Department of Agriculture</p> <p>P.O. Box 200201 Helena, Montana 59601 Phone: (406) 444-9126 Email: Ag.mediation@mt.gov Website: https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/H-M/Mediation</p>
<p>Nebraska Negotiations</p> <p>P.O. Box 94947 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4947 Phone: (402) 471-4876 Email: agr.negotiations@nebraska.gov Website: https://negotiations.nebraska.gov</p>

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<p>New Hampshire New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program c/o New Hampshire Department of Agriculture</p> <p>P.O. Box 2042 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-2042 Phone: (603) 685-4780 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.bhamp.org</p>
<p>New Jersey New Jersey Agricultural Mediation Program New Jersey State Agriculture Development</p> <p>P.O. Box 330 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 Phone: (609) 609-913-6594 or (609) 984-2504 Email: David.kimmel@ag.state.nj.us Website: https://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/</p>
<p>New Mexico New Mexico State University/Cooperative Extension Service</p> <p>P.O. 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>New York New York State Agricultural Mediation Program</p> <p>P.O. Box 215 Chatham, New York 12037 Phone: (866) 669-7267 Email: info@nysamp.com Website: www.nysamp.com</p>
<p>North Carolina North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program (NCAMP)</p> <p>950 Eagles Landing Pkwy #213 Stockbridge, Georgia 30281 Phone: (404) 277-8515 Email: jogden@wcu.edu Website: https://www.ncamediation.org/</p>

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<p>North Dakota North Dakota Department of Agriculture 600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 602 Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0020 Phone: (701) 328-2231 Email: ndms@nd.gov Website: www.nd.gov/ndda</p>
<p>Oklahoma Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 Phone: (405) 521-3934 Fax: (405) 521-3926 Email: mediation@ag.ok.gov Website: www.ok.gov/mediation</p>
<p>Oregon Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center P.O. Box 1594 Hood River, Oregon 97031 Phone: (541) 386-1283 Email: info@6rivers.org Website: www.usdamediationoregon.org</p>
<p>Pennsylvania The Pennsylvania Agricultural Mediation Program c/o Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law 329 Innovation Blvd. Suite 118 University Park, Pennsylvania 16802 Phone: (814) 865-4290 Email: AgMediation@pennstatelaw.psu.edu Website: www.paagmediation.org</p>
<p>Rhode Island Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island 831 Bald Hill Rd. Warwick, Rhode Island 02886 Phone: (401) 273-9999 Email: Info@cmcri.org Website: http://www.cmcri.org/</p>

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<p>South Dakota South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Agriculture Mediation Program 523 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182 Phone: (605) 773-5559 Email: DANRMail@state.sd.us Website: https://danr.sd.gov/Funding/AgricultureMediation/default.aspx</p>
<p>Texas Texas Rural Mediation Services Office of Dispute Resolution for Lubbock County P.O. Box 10536 Lubbock, Texas 79408 Phone: (806) 775-1720 or (866) 329-3522 Fax: (806) 775-1729 Email: odr@lubbockcounty.gov Website: www.lubbockcounty.gov</p>
<p>Utah Utah Agricultural Mediation Program 4315 South 2700 W TSOB South Bldg. Floor 2 Taylorsville, Utah 84129-2128 Phone: (385) 245-5222 Email: agmediation@utah.gov Website: https://ag.utah.gov/office-of-the-commissioner/ag-mediation/</p>
<p>Vermont Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program 177 Paddy Hill Road Moretown, Vermont 05660 Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.vtamp.org</p>
<p>Virginia Agricultural Mediation Program of Virginia 950 Eagles Landing Pkwy #213 Stockbridge, Georgia 30281 Phone: (404) 277-8815 Email: jogden@wcu.edu Website: https://affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/farmva/</p>

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<p>Washington Washington Agricultural Mediation Program 1212 N. Washington Suite 206 Spokane, Washington 99201-2441 Phone: (509) 838-2799 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com Website: https://www.fulcrumdispute.com/</p>
<p>Wisconsin Wisconsin Farm Mediation and Arbitration Program 2811 Agriculture Drive P.O. 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>Wyoming Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resources Mediation Program 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>