



Farm Service Agency

Certified Mediation Program

FACT SHEET
October 2021

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 lender 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. This process helps to 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 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, 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-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 <https://www.fsa.usda.gov>. To find your local FSA office, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/index>.



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Alabama Certified Mediation Program Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123 Phone: (334) 240-7151 Email: mediation@agi.alabama.gov Scott.absher@agi.alabama.gov Website: www.agi.alabama.gov	Connecticut Certified Mediation Program Quinnipiac School of Law Center on Dispute Resolution 275 Mount Carmel Avenue Hamden, Connecticut 06518 Phone: (800) 870-2577 Email: CRAMP@quinnipiac.edu Website: www.CTAgMediation.org
Alaska Certified Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 1212 N. Washington Suite 206 Spokane, Washington 99201-2441 Phone: (509) 838-2799 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com https://www.fulcrumdispute.com	Florida Certified Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund 2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Fax: (404) 765-9178 Email: inquire@agmediation.org Website: https://agmediation.org
Arizona Certified Mediation Program 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	Georgia Certified Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund 2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Fax: (404) 765-9178 Email: info@federation.coop Website: https://www.federation.coop/
Arkansas Certified Mediation Program Arkansas Department of Agriculture 1 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 Phone: (501) 225-1598 Email: camidavis@agriculture.arkansas.gov Website: www.agriculture.arkansas.gov	Hawaii Certified Mediation Program c/o HDOA 1428 South King St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 Phone: (808) 447-1790 ext.101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.hiamp.org
California Certified Mediation Program c/o CDFA 1220 N. St. Suite 400 Sacramento, California 95814 Phone: (916) 330-4500 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.calamp.org	Idaho Certified Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 2150 N. Main, Suite 345 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 Phone: (208) 667-5325 Fax: (509) 838-5588 Email: gcooper@fulcrumdispute.com Website: https://www.fulcrumdispute.com/
Colorado Certified Mediation Program Colorado Department of Agriculture 305 Interlocken Parkway Broomfield, Colorado 80021 Phone: (303) 869-9090 Email: leif.jacobsen@state.co.us Website: www.colorado.gov/ag/ics	Illinois Certified Mediation Program Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc. Post Office Box 1136 Carbondale, Illinois 62903 Phone: (618) 549-1300 Email: iamp@dri-inc.org Website: www.dri-inc.org



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Indiana Certified Mediation Program Rural Services of Indiana 60918 US 31 S South Bend, Indiana 46614 Phone: (574) 299-9640 Email: RSI.ramor@gmail.com Website: https://www.ruralservices.net/	Massachusetts Certified Mediation Program A program of the Massachusetts Office Of Public Collaboration 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://tinyurl.com/MassAgMed
Iowa Certified Mediation Program Iowa Mediation Service 1441 29th Street Suite 120 West Des Moines, Iowa 50266 Phone: (515) 331-8081 Email: admin@iowamediationservice.com Website: www.iowamediationservice.com	Michigan Certified Mediation Program Michigan Community Mediation Association 811 Ship Street Suite 302 Saint Joseph, Michigan 49085-1171 Phone: (800) 616-7863 Fax: (800) 283-7531 Email: micommunitymediationassoc@gmail.com
Kansas Certified Mediation Program Kansas State Research and Extension Kansas State University 2A Edwards Hall 1810 Kerr Drive Manhattan, Kansas 66506 Phone: (785) 532-6958 or (800)321-3276 (800-321-FARM) Fax: (785) 532-6532 Email: kams@ksu.edu Website: http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams/	Minnesota Certified Mediation Program Farmer Lender Mediation Program University of Minnesota Extension 1526 170th Avenue Bejou, Minnesota 56516 Phone: (218) 935-5785 Fax: (218) 935-9053 Email: preis002@umn.edu Website: https://extension.umn.edu/get-help/farmer-lender-mediation
Louisiana Certified Mediation Program Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund 2769 Church Street East Point, Georgia 30344 Phone: (404) 765-0991 Fax: (404) 765-9178 Email: info@federation.coop Website: https://www.federation.coop/	Mississippi Certified Mediation Program Mississippi Association of Cooperatives 233 E. Hamilton St. Jackson, Mississippi 39202 Phone: (888) 412-8376 Fax: (888) 412-8324 Email: msagmediation@gmail.com Website: http://www.mississippiassociation.coop/
Maine Certified Mediation Program The University of Maine Cooperative Extension 1 York Complex Orono, Maine 04469 Phone: (207) 581-3487 Email: maineagmediation@maine.edu Website: https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/agricultural-mediation/	Missouri Certified Mediation Program Missouri Department of Agriculture Post Office Box 630 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 Phone: (573) 751-5520 Email: mediate@mda.mo.gov
Maryland Certified Mediation Program Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service Maryland Department of Agriculture 50 Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Phone: (410) 841-5778 Fax: (410) 841-5987 Email: kay-megan.washington1@maryland.gov Website: http://www.marylandacres.com	Montana Certified Mediation Program Montana Department of Agriculture 302 N. Roberts Post Office Box 200201 Helena, Montana 59601 Phone: (406) 444-9126 Email: Ag.mediation@mt.gov Website: https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/H-M/Mediation



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Nebraska Certified Mediation Program Nebraska Department of Agriculture - Negotiations Program Post Office Box 94947 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4947 Phone: (800) 446-4071 Email: agr.negotiations@nebraska.gov Website: https://negotiations.nebraska.gov	North Dakota Certified Mediation Program 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
New Hampshire Certified Mediation Program c/o NHDAMF Post Office Box 2042 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-2042 Phone: (603) 685-4780 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.bhamp.org	Oklahoma Certified Mediation Program Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4207 Phone: (800) 248-5465 or (405) 521-3934 Fax: (405) 521-3926 Email: mediation@ag.ok.gov Website: www.ok.gov/mediation
New Jersey Certified Mediation Program New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee Post Office Box 330 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-033 Phone: (609) 984-2504 or (609) 913-6594 Email: David.kimmel@ag.state.nj.us Website: https://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/	Oregon Certified Mediation Program Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center Post Office Box 1594 Hood River, Oregon 97031 Phone: (888) 628-4101 or (541) 386-1283 Email: info@usdamediationoregon.org Website: www.usdamediationoregon.org
New Mexico Certified Mediation Program New Mexico State University/Cooperative Extension Service Post Office 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	Pennsylvania Certified 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 or (814) 746-4619 Email: AgMediation@pennstatelaw.psu.edu
New York Certified Mediation Program New York State Dispute Resolution Association, Inc. 300 Great Oaks Blvd. Suite 300-027 Albany, New York 12203 Phone: (866) 669-7267 Email: claudia@nysdra.org Website: www.nysamp.com	Rhode Island Certified Mediation Program Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island 641 Bald Hill Rd., Suite #201 Warwick, Rhode Island Phone: (401) 273-9999 Email: AgMediationRI@gmail.com Email: Info@cmcri.org Website: http://www.cmcri.org/
North Carolina Certified Mediation Program Western Carolina University College of Business 213, 950 Eagles Landing Pkwy Stockbridge, Georgia 30281 Phone: (404) 277-8515 Fax: (678) 272-2784 Email: jogden@wcu.edu or ncampoutreach@bellsouth.net Website: https://www.ncmediation.org/	South Dakota Certified Mediation Program State of South Dakota – Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources 523 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182 Phone: (605) 773-5559 Fax: (605) 773-6035 Email: DANRMail@state.sd.us Website: https://danr.sd.gov



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Texas Certified Mediation Program Texas Rural Mediation Services Office of Dispute Resolution, Lubbock County Post Office Box 10536 Lubbock, Texas 79408 Phone: (806) 775-1720 or (866) 329-3522 Fax: (806) 775-1729 Email: odr@lubbockcounty.gov	Washington Certified Mediation Program Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic 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/
Utah Certified Mediation Program Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Post Office Box 146500 Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-6500 Phone: (801) 982-2200 Email: agmediation@utah.gov Website: https://ag.utah.gov/office-of-the-commissioner/ag-mediation/	Wisconsin Farmer Mediation and Arbitration Program Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection 2811 Agriculture Drive Post Office Box 8911 Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8911 Phone: (800) 942-2474 Email: farmcenter@wisconsin.gov Website: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/FarmMediation.aspx
Vermont Certified Mediation Program c/o Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets 116 State Street Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901 Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext. 101 Email: matts@emcenter.org Website: www.vtamp.org	Wyoming Certified Mediation Program 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
Virginia Certified Mediation Program Western Carolina University College of Business #213, 950 Eagles Landing Pkwy Stockbridge, Georgia 30281 Phone: (770) 262-2814 Fax: (678) 272-2784 Email: jogden@wcu.edu or farmva@att.net Website: http://www.farmva.org/	