

## How Mediation Works

In mediation, participants work with a mediator trained in agricultural issues who is skilled at fostering productive discussions.

At the mediation session, the mediator asks the parties to define the issues that need to be addressed and suggest solutions. Along the way, the mediator ensures that all participants have the opportunity for input so that all involved are heard. The parties, not the mediator, determine which solutions are acceptable to them. If the parties reach an agreement, a written document is drafted containing the agreement terms. The parties sign the agreement and each party receives a copy.



## Mediation in Action

### CASE 1

**Facts:** A fruit producer faced a demand for Disaster Payment Repayment in excess of \$10,000 from the Farm Service Agency. Repayment would have put the producer out of business.

**Outcome:** An agreement to determine accurate acreage resulted in reduced repayment. The repayment reduction enabled the producer to remain in business.

### CASE 2

**Facts:** A property owner faced an action for non-payment of a USDA Rural Development Loan. She had lost her job due to the economic downturn and was waiting to find out if she qualified for unemployment and Department of Health and Human Services benefits. She had applied for a moratorium with the USDA Rural Development but was turned down.

**Outcome:** An agreement to have the property owner demonstrate she had applied for benefits and have the USDA facilitate a redetermination. Pending redetermination, the property owner was awarded benefits and was able to resume loan payments.

## Requesting Mediation Services

There are three ways to request mediation:

- Complete and mail the adjacent Mediation Request Form.
- Complete and send the Mediation Request Form online at [www.agmediation.org](http://www.agmediation.org).
- Contact the program at 800-616-7863.

On the form under Nature of Dispute, state the issues in dispute clearly and concisely. If the dispute involves an adverse determination letter from a USDA agency and you are sending the form by mail, please include a copy of the letter. The form must be returned within 30 calendar days from the date of the adverse determination letter. Persons with disabilities who require program information in alternative formats should contact the USDA's TARGET center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD) or 844-433-2774.

Upon receiving your request, a FAMP representative will contact you to explain the mediation process. If you wish to participate in mediation, the representative will ask you for some background information about the case. The representative will then send the mediation request to the other party and inform you whether the request is accepted or not.

If the mediation request is accepted, the FAMP will schedule a mediation session at a time and location convenient to the parties. Sessions are usually scheduled within 45 days after the receipt of the mediation request. Once scheduled, a notice is sent to all participants. There is no charge to the parties for mediation services.

## Mediation Request Form

To request mediation, please complete the form below and send it to:

Florida Agricultural Mediation Program  
516 S. Creyts Rd, Suite A  
Lansing, Michigan 48917  
Phone: 800-616-7863  
Fax: 800-283-7531  
Email: [Inquire@agmediation.org](mailto:Inquire@agmediation.org)

(If a USDA adverse determination letter is received, this form must be returned within 30 days from the date of that letter.)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Party:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nature of Dispute:**

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## Program Office

(for submitting all mediation requests)

Florida Agricultural Mediation Program

516 S. Creyts Rd., Ste. A

Lansing, Michigan 48917

Phone: 800-616-7863

Fax: 800-283-7531

Email: [Inquire@AgMediation.org](mailto:Inquire@AgMediation.org)

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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 <https://www.targetcenter.dm.usda.gov/> or (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. For Spanish call (800) 845-6136.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at: <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-resolution> How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint or 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) or [CR-INFO@ascr.usda.gov](mailto:CR-INFO@ascr.usda.gov).

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FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL  
MEDIATION PROGRAM

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## Florida Agricultural Mediation Program

*Farming on agreeable terms.*



[www.agmediation.org](http://www.agmediation.org)

## About the Agricultural Mediation Program

If you have an agricultural dispute, the Florida Agricultural Mediation Program (FAMP) is here to help you.

The program was created by the U.S. Congress in 1987, when farming faced tough times. The FAMP today can help address an expanded range of agricultural challenges. The FAMP brings participants in a dispute together to seek solutions within the law that work for all concerned.

### Mediation is:

- Successful most of the time
- Voluntary and confidential
- Speedy and flexible
- Provided at no cost to participants

## When to Use Mediation

Mediation is available when issues arise involving:

- Agricultural loans
- Agricultural credit
- Wetland determinations
- Compliance with farm programs, including conservation programs
- Crop insurance
- Pesticides
- Rural development loans
- Organic certification
- Leases
- Family farm transitions
- Farmer-neighbor disputes
- Other agriculture-related topics deemed appropriate by USDA or the state department of agriculture

