



The Mediation Option for Resolving Farm Disputes

Do you have a disagreement over an agricultural loan? Have you received an adverse determination from an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)? If so, you might consider mediation.

The Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) helps resolve disputes between farmers and USDA agencies and between farmers and their lenders or creditors.

The MAMP provides trained mediators to help the parties to a dispute communicate effectively about the issues and develop options for resolution. Mediation is designed to resolve disputes quickly and confidentially while saving the parties' time, money and stress by avoiding hearings or litigation. Eighty to 100 percent of cases mediated by the MAMP are resolved each year. If resolution is not reached, the parties can still request a USDA hearing or proceed to court.

There is no cost to the parties for using MAMP services.

The MAMP has been providing mediation services to the agricultural community since 1997. Congress originally established and funded agricultural mediation in response to the severe financial crisis of the early- to mid-1980s. In some cases, mediation has helped save the farm.

Michigan residents seeking mediation or wishing to learn more can call the MAMP at (800) 616-7863 or visit www.agmediation.org.

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