

Benefits of Mediation

Mediation offers many advantages in resolving disputes because the process:

- Is voluntary & allows time to hear and be heard
- Offers parties an opportunity to start working on a resolution right away, without waiting on a lengthy appeals process
- Allows parties to maintain confidentiality
- Allows parties who are most familiar with the dispute to create their own solutions
- Helps restore communication between disputing parties
- May preserve & improve business relationships
- Provides an impartial setting in which to openly discuss all issues involved, including sensitive financial matters & personal issues that might not be considered in a formal review process
- Saves everyone the time & cost involved with the appeal process or a lawsuit

To request mediation or for more information, contact:

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**Pennsylvania
Agricultural
Mediation
Program**

www.PAAgMediation.com



Center for Agricultural
and Shale Law



We help resolve conflicts concerning:

- Farm & Agricultural loans
- Wetlands determinations
- Compliance with farm programs
- Conservation programs
- National Organic Program
- Agricultural Credit
- Rural water loan programs
- Grazing on federal lands
- Pesticide applications
- Lease issues
- Family farm transition
- Farmer-neighbor disputes

What is Agricultural Mediation?

Mediation provides the opportunity for you to openly and confidentially discuss a conflict affecting your life. The mediator, a neutral third party, will assist in encouraging a discussion between you and the person or agency with whom you have a conflict. You will work together, with the help of the mediator, to reach an agreement that works for all. The mediator does not make a decision and is not an advocate for any side of the conflict. No agreement is reached unless approved by all involved.



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Mediation is Part of the USDA's Appeal Procedure

Mediation does not affect your right to appeal. When mediation is requested, the appeals clock is suspended. At the end of the mediation, the appeals clock resumes. You may request mediation either before or after you file an appeal.

Services Provided & Costs

No fee will be charged for USDA related mediations. Other mediations may be subject to a fee based on the mediator's time and travel.

If you have borrowed money, received credit, participated in any program, or received any other benefit from the USDA, you may request mediation of any dispute that affects your relationship with USDA.

Mediation is offered for interactions with the following agencies:

- Farm Service Agency
- Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Risk Management Agency
- Rural Development

