



Mediation Process

You receive adverse determination letter from a USDA agency, have a conflict about an agricultural loan or a dispute with a neighbor.

You contact NCAMP to request mediation

NCAMP determines whether the dispute is covered. There is no charge for mediations concerning agricultural issues covered by our grant

NCAMP assigns mediator

NCAMP schedules mediation

At the conclusion of mediation the parties will sign an agreement

North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program

NCAMP
www.ncmediation.org

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Mediation General Principles

Neutrality

NCAMP and its mediators act as neutrals in all disputes. They do not act as advocates for either party. Instead, they help the parties discuss the issues and resolve the dispute.

Consent

Any settlement must be reached by mutual consent of both parties involved.

Confidentiality

All mediations are confidential within certain parameters that will be discussed at the mediation.

Location

Although NCAMP is housed at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, mediations are held in the county where the parties work or reside.

Counsel/Experts

Mediation participants will be limited to interested parties (who may have legal counsel and/or experts present, at the discretion of the mediator).

Non-discrimination

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*We Cultivate Resolutions
One Mediation at a Time*

**North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program
ncmediation.org**



ncampoutreach@bellsouth.net

Foreclosures, Adverse Decisions, Neighbor Conflicts, Lease Disputes

NCAMP Mediation Services

What is Mediation?

Mediation provides the opportunity for you to openly and confidentially discuss a conflict affecting your life. The mediator, a neutral, will assist in encouraging a discussion between you and the person or agency with whom you have a conflict. You 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 either side of the conflict. No agreement is reached unless it is approved by all involved.

NCAMP's Mission

To help settle disputes between USDA agencies in North Carolina and their customers and clients; to help resolve disputes involving agricultural issues.

Mediation Is Part of the USDA's Appeal Procedure

Mediation does not affect your right to an 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.

When to Suggest Mediation

If you know of someone that may be in a difficult situation and you think they could benefit from mediation - suggest it. Be prepared with the contact number (404.277.8515) or email jogden@wcu.edu, or just hand them one of these brochures.



What are the Benefits of Mediation?

Mediation offers many advantages over other methods of resolving disputes because the process:

- Is voluntary and allows time to hear and be heard
- Offers parties an opportunity to start working on a resolution right away, without waiting through lengthy appeal 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 and improve important business relationships
- Provides an impartial setting in which to openly discuss all issues involved, including sensitive financial matters and personal issues that might not be considered in a formal appeal or courtroom
- Saves everyone the time and cost involved with the appeal process or a lawsuit

Services Provided and Costs

No fees are charged for covered disputes!

The following types of conflicts can be mediated:

- Disputes with the FSA
- Disputes with Farm Credit Lenders
- Disputes with:
 - * Rural Development (RD)
 - * National Forest Service (NFS)
 - * Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)
 - * Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- Disputes with neighbors
- Disputes under the National Organic Program
- Disputes involving wetlands
- Disputes involving leases
- Disputes involving family farm transition
- Credit Counseling assistance

Funding

NCAMP receives funding from a grant from the USDA and is supported by Western Carolina University's College of Business.

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