



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM

## WHAT WE MEDIATE

### Issues mediated with USDA:

- Agricultural loans by USDA/others
- Action on farm & conservation programs
- Wetland determinations
- Rural water loan programs
- Pesticides
- Rural housing & business loans
- Crop insurance

### Other issues mediated:

- Agricultural credit
- The National Organic Program
- Lease issues
- Family farm transition
- Farm/neighbor disputes
- Farmers' market conflicts
- Farm/municipal conflicts
- Farm/farmworker conflicts
- Farm/customer conflicts
- Farm/contractor conflicts
- Agricultural cooperatives conflicts

## USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, 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.

## CONTACT US

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✉ [agmediation@umb.edu](mailto:agmediation@umb.edu)

🌐 [umb.edu/mopc/programs/agricultural-mediation-program/](http://umb.edu/mopc/programs/agricultural-mediation-program/)



## MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF PUBLIC COLLABORATION

*John W. McCormack Graduate  
School of Policy and Global Studies  
College of Liberal Arts  
University of Massachusetts Boston*





# ABOUT MEDIATION

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Mediation is a voluntary, confidential, and flexible process in which a neutral mediator assists negotiations between two or more disputing parties. It is not a determination of who is right or wrong, and decision-making power lies with the parties.

Through mediation, parties can devise creative solutions, often in less time, at less cost, and with greater satisfaction than through litigation. Because the parties craft a mutually acceptable solution together, mediation is often successful in producing high quality settlements and durable agreements which help preserve on-going relationships.

Mediation does not have to be an end point – there may be further exploration of rights and responsibilities through other processes.

# REQUESTING SERVICES

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USDA agencies issuing an adverse determination offer the option of mediation to clients. The client should request mediation immediately after receiving the notice of the adverse determination(s) to stay the period of appeal.

Mediation for other issues involving agricultural producers can be requested by contacting MOPC.



# COSTS

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Mediations involving covered issues are provided at little to no cost to producers, creditors, and other parties, as these services are mostly covered by grant funding.



# ABOUT MOPC

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The Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC) is a center of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. MOPC provides more effective forums for conflict resolution, public decision-making and community involvement on contentious public issues.

MOPC operates and administers the Agricultural Mediation Program for the Commonwealth. Services are provided through qualified and experienced mediators on MOPC's panel and in partnership with Community Mediation Centers across the Commonwealth.

MOPC and our partners have successfully mediated agriculture and rural housing issues including loan denials, accelerations, and foreclosures – as well as wetlands, land use, farm management, succession planning, and farmers market conflicts.

