

What is the Negotiations Program?

Mediation is a voluntary process focused on resolving conflict between two parties. A mediator helps the parties communicate and negotiate clearly and effectively in hopes of reaching a mutually acceptable solution.

Participation does not constitute a waiver of any legal rights. If no solution is reached, the parties are free to proceed with other legal remedies.

What issues may be mediated?

- Ag loans and ag credit issues;
- USDA agency adverse decisions;
 - Farm Service Agency
 - Natural Resources Conservation Services
 - Risk Management Agency
 - Rural Development
- Fence Repairs.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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 (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.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and 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:

Mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Fax: (202) 690-7442
Email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

For more information contact:

402-471-4876
agr.Negotiations@nebraska.gov
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AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS
NEGOTIATIONS



Mediation services for ag
borrowers, creditors and
USDA program participants
negotiations.nebraska.gov

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Benefits of Mediation

- Voluntary;
- Confidential;
- Neutral setting;
- Solutions are generated by the parties, not the mediator;
- Preserves relationships; and
- Cost effective.

Role of the Mediator

- Impartial;
- Maintains a respectful and safe environment for the parties;
- Allows parties to speak and be heard;
- Helps identify and clarify the issue(s);
- Directs collaborative problem solving;
- Helps the parties test solutions; and
- Does not make decisions for you.

The Mediation Process

- The program is designed for quick resolution of disputes. The initial mediation session will be conducted within 40 days of receiving a mediation request. The entire process will not extend past 60 days without the consent of all parties.
- When a solution is reached, a tentative agreement is prepared and all parties receive a copy. Agreements may be reviewed by others before becoming final, unless the review period is waived by the parties. The final agreement may be enforced as a legal contract.
- Parties participating in a mediation session will be charged \$20 per hour for the time spent in the session. The fee may be waived in whole or in part in cases of financial hardship.
- You may be eligible to receive a free in-depth financial analysis to prepare for a mediation session.

Quotes from Participants

- “It wouldn’t have happened without you! We can live with the new arrangement and have hopes of being able to buy the additional cows in the future.”
- “I wouldn’t be farming if it wasn’t for mediation.”
- “When you have hope, you can go on.”

Free Clinics

Each month, free clinics and workshops are held at various sites. Professionals provide one-on-one education and resources on mediation, farm finances, and legal matters. In addition, estate planning, farm succession plans, and other special interest topics will be held in group sessions at sites across the state.

For dates and locations visit: www.negotiations.nebraska.gov

Pre-register by calling: **The Rural Response Hotline - 800.464.0258**