



How Much Does Mediation Cost?

VTAMP can provide mediation on the issues listed here for free. VTAMP receives a grant from the USDA to help pay for mediation services for the agricultural community in Vermont. For issues outside the USDA program, we can offer assistance at a low cost.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



How to Request Assistance?

It's easy. Just call, e-mail, or fill out a request mediation form available on our website.

For More information contact:

Matt Strassberg or Julie Hoyt
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Moretown, VT 05660
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Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program



We Grow
Solutions



How We Can Help?

Running a farm is challenging. Narrow financial margins can create problems with lenders and unsecured creditors. Complex federal programs can lead to disagreements over program eligibility and compliance. Uncooperative weather can bring losses and problems with insurance claims.

That's where we come in. *We grow solutions* to some of the problems that farmers face everywhere.

What is Mediation?

Mediation is an informal way to resolve problems by utilizing an impartial person to assist parties negotiate their differences. The mediator does not have decision-making authority and does not determine who is legally right or wrong. The mediator helps the parties by facilitating the discussion, identifying and clarifying the issues, and exploring options to resolve the problem.

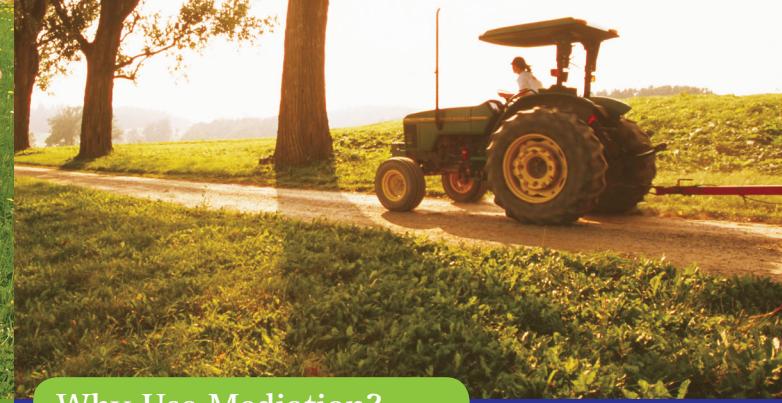


What is the Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program (NHAMP)?

VTAMP is the official agricultural mediation program for the State of Vermont certified by the USDA and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. VTAMP is a program of the non-profit Environmental Mediation Center. VTAMP has mediators on staff and contracts with private mediators to help you resolve problems through an informal process before they get more complicated and costly.

"VTAMP is a valued and trusted resource that helps the agricultural community in Vermont resolve disputes. Over the past several years VTAMP has helped hundreds of farmers, lenders, and others in the agricultural community reach agreements and get back to work. I urge you to contact them if you need assistance concerning a dispute."

—Chuck Ross, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture



Why Use Mediation?

Mediation offers several advantages because the process

- * Allows the parties to tailor solutions to meet their interests
- * Leaves the decision-making authority with the parties
- * Helps restore and preserve important relationships
- * Is usually cheaper and faster than other methods to resolve problems

What Kinds of Problems and Issues Can Be Mediated?

- * Adverse Decisions from USDA agencies
- * Compliance Issues with USDA Programs
- * Farm and Rural Development Loans
- * Other credit problems
- * Wetlands Determinations
- * Crop Insurance
- * Pesticide Issues
- * Other Agricultural Disputes