

# Agricultural Mediation in the Southeastern United States

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## What is Mediation?

Mediation is a method for resolving problems or disagreements without resorting to court. Mediation is meant to help farmers, lenders, and others impacted by the dispute work through disagreements in a faster and less expensive way than a lawsuit. Mediation enables people to discuss their issues and find a mutually agreeable solution.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) pays for mediation programs in many states. These programs use trained mediators to help navigate issues related to farm loans, USDA decisions, conservation programs, wetland rules, rural water loans, grazing land, pesticides, rural housing, business loans, and crop insurance.

The Coalition of Agriculture Mediation Programs (CAMP) is a group that connects certified mediation programs across the country, especially in the Southeast. However, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee

are not part of CAMP. If you're in one of those states, contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for help.

## How Does Mediation Work?

In most places, mediation is something you can choose to do, and it often happens before a formal complaint or appeal is filed. To get started, contact your state's certified mediation program. A representative will then contact you to explain how it works and to learn more about the situation.

If everyone agrees to try mediation, a meeting is typically scheduled within a few weeks. In Arkansas, lenders are required to offer mediation to farmers, but farmers have the option to decide to participate.

## Why Try Mediation?

Mediation has several potential benefits:

- A neutral person helps everyone understand each other.

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- People can create their own fair solutions.
- It can improve relationships.
- It saves time and money compared to going to court.
- It encourages honest and respectful conversation.
- It is private and voluntary, so you don't have to go if you don't want to, and what you say stays confidential.

## How Much Does Mediation Cost?

Many mediation programs are free. Some might charge a small fee. If interested, please contact your state mediation program about the cost.

## Resources

Certified Mediation Program (CMP). USDA Farm Service Agency. Retrieved April 10, 2025, from

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/certified-mediation-program>.

Farm Service Agency State Offices. Farm Service Agency, USDA. Retrieved May 8, 2025, from <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices>.

Mediation. Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Land Assistance Fund. Retrieved April 16, 2025, from <https://www.federation.coop/mediation>.

Mediation Services for the Agricultural Community. Coalition of Agricultural Mediation Programs (CAMP). Retrieved April 10, 2025, from <https://agriculturemediation.org/>.

States' Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Statutes. The National Agricultural Law Center. Retrieved June 4, 2025, from <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/state-compilations/alternative-dispute-resolution-adr/>.

Table 1. State-Certified Mediation Programs, Southeast Region. See also: <https://agriculturemediation.org/>.

ALABAMA	
<b>Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program</b> Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107-1123 <b>Phone (334) 240-7257; (800) 642-7761</b> <b>Email: me@agi.alabama.gov</b> <a href="http://www.agi.alabama.gov">www.agi.alabama.gov</a>	<b>CAMP Mediator: Johnny Blackmon</b> Phone (334) 240-7257 Email: johnny.blackmon@agi.alabama.gov <a href="https://agi.alabama.gov/agcompliance/mediation-program/">https://agi.alabama.gov/agcompliance/mediation-program/</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/alabama.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/alabama.pdf</a>
ARKANSAS	
<b>Arkansas Farmer/Creditor Mediation Program</b> Arkansas Department of Agriculture 1 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR 72205 <b>Phone: (501) 225-1598</b> <a href="http://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov">www.agriculture.arkansas.gov</a>	<b>CAMP Mediator: Cami Davis</b> Phone: (501) 219-6384 Email: cami.davis@agriculture.arkansas.gov <a href="https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/arkansas-farmer-creditor-mediation-program/">https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/arkansas-farmer-creditor-mediation-program/</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/arkansas.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/arkansas.pdf</a>
FLORIDA	
<b>Florida Agricultural Mediation Program</b> Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance 224 NW Hillsboro Street Lake City, FL <b>Phone: (386) 243-8179</b> <a href="http://www.federation.coop">www.federation.coop</a>	<b>CAMP Mediator: Dania Davy</b> Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: info@federation.coop <a href="http://www.federation.coop">www.federation.coop</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/florida.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/florida.pdf</a>

Table 1 (continued). State-Certified Mediation Programs, Southeast Region. See also: <https://agriculturemediation.org/>.

GEORGIA	
<b>Georgia Agricultural Mediation Program</b> Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance 2769 Church St. East Point, GA 30344 <b>Phone: (404) 765-0991</b> <a href="http://www.federation.coop">www.federation.coop</a>	<b>CAMP Mediator: Dania Davy</b> Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: <a href="mailto:info@federation.coop">info@federation.coop</a> <a href="http://www.federation.coop">www.federation.coop</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/georgia.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/georgia.pdf</a>
KENTUCKY	
<b>Kentucky FSA offices:</b> <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/kentucky">www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/kentucky</a>	<b>Clark Sturgeon, FSA Deputy State Director</b> Email: <a href="mailto:Clark.sturgeon@usda.gov">Clark.sturgeon@usda.gov</a> Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/kentucky.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/kentucky.pdf</a>
LOUISIANA	
<b>Louisiana Agricultural Mediation Program</b> Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance 3717 Prescott Road Alexandria, LA 71310 <b>Phone: (318) 704-2423</b> <a href="http://www.federation.coop">www.federation.coop</a>	<b>CAMP Mediator: Dania Davy</b> Phone: (404) 765-0991 Email: <a href="mailto:info@federation.coop">info@federation.coop</a> <a href="http://www.federation.coop">www.federation.coop</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/louisiana.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/louisiana.pdf</a>
MISSISSIPPI	
<b>Mississippi Agricultural Mediation Program</b> Mississippi Association of Cooperatives 233 East Hamilton Street Jackson, MS 39202 <b>Phone: (601) 944-0592</b> Email: <a href="mailto:mac39202@gmail.com">mac39202@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.mississippiassociation.org">www.mississippiassociation.org</a>	<b>CAMP Mediator: LyTanya Brown</b> Phone: (888) 412-8234 Email: <a href="mailto:lytanyabrown@federation.coop">lytanyabrown@federation.coop</a> <a href="http://www.federation.coop/mediation">www.federation.coop/mediation</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/mississippi.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/mississippi.pdf</a>
NORTH CAROLINA	
<b>North Carolina Agricultural Mediation Program</b> Western Carolina University College of Business 190 Floyd Blackwell Road Tryon, NC 28782 <b>Phone: (828) 200-5261</b> <a href="http://www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/">www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/</a>	<b>Contact: Bob Holbert, Director</b> Phone: (828) 200-5261 Email: <a href="mailto:rhobert@wcu.edu">rhobert@wcu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/">www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/northcarolina.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/northcarolina.pdf</a>
OKLAHOMA	
<b>Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program, Inc.</b> 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 Phone: (405) 521-3934 Email: <a href="mailto:mediation@ag.ok.gov">mediation@ag.ok.gov</a> <a href="http://www.ok.gov/mediation">www.ok.gov/mediation</a>	<b>Contact: Mike Mayberry, Director</b> Phone: (405) 521-3934 Email: <a href="mailto:MIKE.MAYBERRY@AG.OK.GOV">MIKE.MAYBERRY@AG.OK.GOV</a> <a href="http://www.ok.gov/mediation">www.ok.gov/mediation</a> Cost: Free Regulations: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/oklahoma.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/oklahoma.pdf</a>

Table 1 (continued). State-Certified Mediation Programs, Southeast Region. See also: <https://agriculturemediation.org/>.

SOUTH CAROLINA	
<b>South Carolina FSA Offices:</b> <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/south-carolina">www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/south-carolina</a>	<b>Kenn Jameson, Deputy State Executive Director</b> Email: kenn.jameson@usda.gov <b>Regulations:</b> <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/southcarolina.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/southcarolina.pdf</a>
TENNESSEE	
<b>Tennessee FSA Offices:</b> <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/tennessee">www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/tennessee</a>	<b>Ty Smith, Deputy State Executive Director</b> Email: tyeisha.smith@usda.gov <b>Regulations:</b> <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/tennessee.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/tennessee.pdf</a>
TEXAS	
<b>Texas Rural Mediation Service</b> Office of Dispute Resolution, Lubbock County 916 Main Street, Suite 800 Lubbock, TX 79408 Phone: (806) 775-1720 <b>Email:</b> odr@lubbockcounty.gov <a href="http://www.lubbockcounty.gov/departament/index.php?structureid=16">www.lubbockcounty.gov/departament/index.php?structureid=16</a>	<b>CAMP Mediator: D. Gene Valentini</b> Phone: (806) 775-1720; (866) 329-3522 Email: gvalentini@co.lubbock.tx.us <a href="http://www.lubbockcounty.gov/departament/division.php?structureid=111">www.lubbockcounty.gov/departament/division.php?structureid=111</a> Cost: Free <b>Regulations:</b> <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/texas.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/texas.pdf</a>
VIRGINIA	
<b>Farm Agricultural Resources &amp; Mediation in Virginia</b> Western Carolina University College of Business 190 Floyd Blackwell Road Tryon, NC 28782 <b>Phone:</b> (828) 200-5261 <a href="http://www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/">www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/</a>	<b>Contact: Bob Holbert, Director</b> Phone: (828) 200-5261 Email: rholbert@wcu.edu <a href="http://www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/">www.affiliate.wcu.edu/agriculturalmediation/ncamp/</a> Cost: Free <b>Regulations:</b> <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/virginia.pdf">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/disputeresolution/virginia.pdf</a>

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