

About the Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program

The Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island (CMCRI) is certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to administer an Agricultural Mediation Program for Rhode Island's farmers and others in the agricultural community.

The Rhode Island Agricultural Mediation Program offers farmers and agricultural producers a process to assist them in resolving their disputes in a way that is voluntary, confidential, low-cost and time saving. There are many types of disputes that have been successfully mediated through the USDA's certified state mediation programs, including:

- Crop insurance
- Farm debt and credit issues
- Rural housing loans and foreclosures
- Easement and access issues
- Pesticide use
- Wetlands determination
- Natural resource conservation
- Many other issues

Other Program Services Offered

Public land use disputes
Family farm/estate transition
Farm Viability Counseling
Situation Assessment
Conflict Coaching
Meeting Facilitation
Conflict Resolution Training
Dialogue Convening

for more information, please visit
CMCRI.org



Rhode Island AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM



CENTER FOR MEDIATION & COLLABORATION
RHODE ISLAND



CENTER FOR
MEDIATION &
COLLABORATION
RHODE ISLAND

500 Broad St., Unit 4B
Providence, RI 02907
401.273.9999
toll-free 855.343.0072
www.cmcri.org

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

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 the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250 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.

Rhode Island AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM



RI
AMP

About Mediation

Mediation is a voluntary and flexible process that helps disputing parties come together to have an open, honest and confidential discussion about the issues. A trained mediator helps parties to explore the options available to them and to find an end to the conflict through mutually agreed upon solutions. A mediator does not act as a judge or decide who is right or wrong. The parties themselves control the outcome of the mediation and any agreement they reach.

Benefits of Mediation

Parties are able to devise creative solutions, often in less time, at less cost, and with greater satisfaction than through traditional litigation.

Because the parties craft a mutually acceptable solution together, mediation is often successful in producing durable agreements which help preserve ongoing relationships between the parties.

Cost of Mediation

Mediation is available at little or no cost to the Rhode Island agricultural community. Mediation services for agricultural loans, agricultural credit, farm loan compliance, and other agricultural related issues are funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CMCRI also offers a sliding-scale fee structure for mediation of non-USDA related agricultural and land use issues.



Requesting Mediation Services

USDA agencies issuing an adverse determination offer the option of mediation and must participate in mediation if requested. Additionally, mediation may be requested for agricultural credit issues by borrowers or their creditors when a borrower is delinquent or is at the risk of becoming delinquent.

Once CMCRI is notified of a request for mediation, efforts will be made to schedule a mediation session within 30 days or as soon as all parties are available. Mediating early very often prevents conflicts from escalating.

A Note About Appeal Deadlines: Where a borrower is appealing a decision or an adverse determination to the USDA, the borrower should request mediation immediately after receiving the notice of the adverse determination(s) in order to stay the period of appeal. Any questions regarding time limits for appeals should be addressed directly to your local USDA office.

About CMCRI

The Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island (CMCRI) provides mediation, facilitation, training and other conflict resolution services to individuals, families, and organizations throughout Rhode Island. We are committed to the process of empowering parties to express their underlying needs, interests and concerns, as well as identifying mutually acceptable solutions in a safe and respectful environment.



CMCRI has professionally trained mediators throughout the state who have diverse backgrounds in areas such as land use, environment, agriculture, workplace disputes, financial issues, family conflict resolution, social work, law, and government.

For more information, please contact CMCRI at (401) 273-9999, toll-free at (855) 343-0072, or online at www.cmcri.org.

