

Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program, Inc.

Mike Mayberry, Executive Director

OAMP is still open and ready to help Oklahoma Producers!

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About Oklahoma Ag Mediation Program (OAMP)

- USDA Certified Program since 1987, the first in the nation. Grant funds allow OAMP to provide no-cost mediation between agricultural producers and the USDA agencies as a part of the appeals process.
- We also provide limited financial planning referrals for producers that are preparing for mediation.
- Per the 2018 Farm Bill, there are many new types of cases which can be mediated.

New Case Types

- Neighbor to Neighbor disputes
- Family Farm Transitions
- Pesticide cases
- Lease issues, including Land and Equipment Leases
- Organic Food Issues
- Other issues determined by the Secretary of Agriculture

What is Mediation?

 Mediation is a <u>voluntary</u>, informal process in which people involved in a dispute agree to meet in a <u>confidential</u> setting to attempt to work out a solution on their own, without having to go to court or through an appeal.



What Types of Mediations We Do:

- Farm credit and loan servicing
- Loan delinquency
- Unfeasible farm plans
- Farm Program compliance and eligibility issues
- Foreclosures and Loan Accelerations
- Conservation contracts



We Work In All 77 Counties With:

- Oklahoma farmers or ranchers
- Agricultural borrowers or lenders
- Any producer who has received an adverse decision letter from any USDA agency



Benefits of Ag Mediation

- May resolve problems within producer's financial means
- Lower cost than appeals, litigation, or bankruptcy
- Promotes good working relationships between the parties
- Resolves the situation quickly
- Reduce stress caused by lengthy litigation and unresolved conflict



How does Ag Mediation Work?

- You contact our office and request mediation.
- We schedule the mediation and assign a mediator.
- With the help of a professional mediator, both parties will have a chance to tell their story and exchange information about the situation. Mediators help with the negotiations and planning.
- Unlike a judge, the mediator is neutral and will not make a decision on who is right or wrong. Instead, they assist the parties with coming to a mutual agreement. You are the decision-maker.
- Any settlements reached are agreed to, written down and signed by both parties.

Frequently Asked Questions

- How much does mediation cost?
- Where does it take place?
- Do I need to bring a lawyer to mediation?
- What documents or paperwork do I need to bring to mediation?
- How long does a mediation take?

We are Here to Help!

- Certified mediation programs have helped many farmers and creditors over the years to resolve their disputes confidentially and in a non-adversarial setting.
- This helps to avoid traditional processes such as litigation, appeals, bankruptcy and foreclosure.
- This program is crucial in maintaining America's small family farmers who continuously battle the economy, low commodity prices and nature.



For More Information Contact: Oklahoma Ag Mediation Program, Inc. Website: www.ok.gov/mediation Email: mediation@ag.ok.gov 800-248-5465 405-521-3934



