

DISASTER AVOIDED

A farm experienced financial losses in recent years. The family's good reputation allowed them to get a loan, but the farmer realized he would not produce enough income that year to make payments. The farmer and lender worked together to develop a solution. The farmer was able to pay the loan and avoid bankruptcy, and the bank preserved a valuable customer.

If you or someone you know is in a dispute involving:

- Adverse decisions from a USDA agency
- Farm and rural development loans
- Environmental or Forestry Issues
- Crop Insurance or Disaster Relief
- Contracts with Food Processors
- Conflicts with neighbors
- Labor Issues
- Farm Business Plans
- Wetland determinations
- Farm Succession or Estate issues
- Disputes affecting agricultural operations

...Mediation can help.

Agricultural Mediation Services



Maine's Agricultural Mediation Program

14 Maine Street, Suite 301
Brunswick, ME 04011
www.voanne.org
www.communitymediationservices.org
(800) 381-0609
(207) 373-1140 ext. 229
(207) 441-3076 cell
mediate@voanne.org

AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION

- Effective
- Confidential
- Free



WELCOME TO MAINE'S AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM

We help people resolve conflicts.

We are the official United States Department of Agriculture Mediation Program, providing services to resolve disputes before they end up in court.

Conflicts happen in everyone's life at some time but with help, they can be resolved effectively; bringing peace of mind and satisfaction. Mediation helps people clarify issues, explore options and reach mutually satisfactory resolution.

HOW MEDIATION WORKS

Mediation is a process where two or more parties meet with a Mediator; an impartial person to help them resolve their differences. A Mediator helps people talk about their issues, explore options and create agreements everyone can live with.

Agricultural Mediation is voluntary and free designed to help farmers, producers, lenders, agencies, families and communities.

- Contact us, we can help you decide if mediation is right for you
- We'll set up a convenient time and place for everyone to meet
- We'll help you identify the issues and look for common ground
- At the end, we'll help write up an agreement

MEDIATE FIRST



KEEPING THE FARM IN THE FAMILY

The family had owned and operated the farm for many years but were getting on in years and wanted to pass it on to their children. One child wanted to stay on the farm while the others wanted to sell the land.

At mediation, the parents and children discussed their desire for the future of the farm. As a result, the family decided to use land preservation and insurance options to keep it in agriculture and also provide an inheritance for the future generation.

Agricultural Mediation's services are...

- Effective
- Efficient
- Free
- Convenient
- Confidential
- Voluntary

WORKING IT OUT TOGETHER

As new homes were built up around the farm, one neighbor started making ongoing complaints to their local officials about the strong manure odor.

Mediation helped the farmer and neighbor agree to resolve any future issues without involving the town officials. They developed an understanding of the farmer's need to farm and the neighbor's concerns about the environmental impact.

The farmer was able to make a few small changes that worked to satisfy the neighbor, putting an end to the problem.

We're a service of Volunteers of America Northern New England, partnering with individuals and organizations to serve those in need.

We also offer Community Mediation that helps people and communities resolve conflicts in the workplace, neighborhoods, schools, housing, families and seniors.

We also provide facilitation services, conflict resolution workshops and the 40-hour basic mediation training.

Contact us at:

(800) 381-0609
(207) 373-1140 ext. 229
mediate@voanne.org
www.voanne.org
www.communitymediationservices.org