Mediation is available to resolve disputes with USDA agencies or private agricultural creditors over issues such as loans, wetland determinations, compliance with farm programs including conservation programs, agricultural credit, crop insurance, pesticides, and other agricultural-related topics.

**BENEFITS OF MEDIATION**

The mediation process provides a non-threatening informal procedure as an initial step in resolving conflicts. Benefits include the following:

- Participants control the outcome
- Process is confidential
- Mediation can preserve relationships by defining the rights and responsibilities of the parties
- Mediation is flexible
- Mediation is speedy
- Mediation saves money

Mediators are trained facilitators who assist parties in reaching an agreement. Mediators define issues, enhance communications, emphasize common goals, and focus on forward-moving dialogue.

**MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM**

Mediation is available to resolve disputes with USDA agencies or private agricultural creditors over issues such as loans, wetland determinations, compliance with farm programs including conservation programs, agricultural credit, crop insurance, pesticides, and other agricultural-related topics.

This written mediation request must be postmarked or faxed by you no later than 30 calendar days after the date of the adverse notice or letter. You must include a copy of the adverse determination letter with your mediation request.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET center at 202/720-2600 (voice and TDD).

In accordance with Federal law and United States Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800/795-3272 (voice), or 202/720-6382 (TDD).

Michigan State University College of Law is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

You may visit the Agricultural Program website at [www.law.msu.edu/adr](http://www.law.msu.edu/adr) or call the toll free number 888/247-2174.
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HDC Center for Dispute Resolution
429 Montague Avenue
Caro, MI 48723-1997
Fax: 989/673-2031

In completing the form, state the issues clearly and concisely. Once you file your Request for Mediation, you will be contacted by a case administrator from one of two community dispute resolution centers in the State of Michigan responsible for arranging the mediations. Your case will be assigned to either of the following centers, depending on your locale. Refer to the map.

REQUEST FOR MEDIATION FORM

Date __________________________________________
County _________________________________________
First Name ______________________________________
Last Name ______________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City ___________________________________________
State _____________________ Zip __________________
Telephone ______________________________________
Fax ___________________________________________
E-mail _________________________________________
Nature of Dispute _________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________ ... __________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

USDA Agency that sent you the adverse notice:
☐ Farm Service Agency
☐ Natural Resources Conservation Service
☐ Rural Development

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Mary A. Bedikian, J.D.
Program Director
Michigan State University College of Law
Phone: 517/432-6889
E-Mail: bedik@law.msu.edu

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Last Name ______________________________________
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City ___________________________________________
State _____________________ Zip __________________
Telephone ______________________________________
Fax ___________________________________________
E-mail _________________________________________
Nature of Dispute _______________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________ ...
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

USDA Agency that sent you the adverse notice:
☐ Farm Service Agency
☐ Natural Resources Conservation Service
☐ Rural Development

1. Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan
   678 Front NW, Suite 250
   Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5368
   Phone: 616/774-0121
   Fax: 616/774-0323

2. HDC Center for Dispute Resolution
   429 Montague Avenue
   Caro, MI 48723-1997
   Phone: 989/672-4044
   Fax: 989/673-2031

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