

# N.J. Agricultural Mediation Program

The Agricultural Mediation Program is administered by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC). The goal of the Program is to help farmers and others resolve agriculture-related disputes quickly, amicably, and in a cost-effective manner. The Agricultural Mediation Program can be used to help resolve Right to Farm disputes, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program issues, and agricultural credit issues.



## How does mediation work?

Mediation is a voluntary process in which a trained, impartial mediator helps disputing parties examine their mutual issues, identify and consider options, and determine if they can agree on a solution.

Because the mediator has no decision-making authority, successful mediation is based on the voluntary cooperation of all parties.

## What are the benefits?

Mediation can save farmers and others time and costly legal fees. It is a free service, is confidential, and generally takes only a few meetings to complete.

Mediation is an alternative to the sometimes lengthy Right to Farm public hearing process and the USDA appeals process. Through mediation, the parties can shape the outcome of their dispute rather than requiring that a third-party decide the issue. Mediation also allows the parties to express their views and concerns, clarify misunderstandings, and maintain relationships.

## Who can use the program?

- Farmers, Neighbors, Municipalities – Right to Farm disputes
- Farmers and USDA agencies – USDA Program disputes
- Farmers, Lenders, Creditors – Agricultural Credit disputes

## How do you request mediation?

Complete a mediation request form, available at [www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/request/](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/request/), and return it to the Agricultural Mediation Program. Once each party agrees to participate, the Program assigns a mediator and schedules a mediation session at a time and place convenient for all the parties.

## For more information

Visit [www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/agmediation/) or call (609) 984-2504.

