

# What other services does the Agricultural Mediation Clinic offer ?

## *Conflict Resolution and Prevention Training:*

Experienced conflict resolution professionals can provide training workshops for members of the agricultural community, including town Agricultural Commissions, which will teach them how to prevent and manage conflict effectively.

## *Meeting Facilitation:*

Professional meeting facilitators/moderators can assist with conducting agriculture-related town meetings and also teach members of the ag community how to effectively manage meetings by establishing agendas, setting ground rules and appropriately dealing with difficult personalities.



MA Office of Dispute Resolution & Collaboration  
Agricultural Mediation Clinic  
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## **AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION CLINIC**



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOSTON

## What is the Agricultural Mediation Clinic?

The Agricultural Mediation Clinic was created by the MA Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration (MODR) to provide professional mediation, facilitation, conflict prevention and training services to individuals and organizations engaged in agriculture as a way of supporting sustainable agriculture throughout the Commonwealth.

### About MODR

The Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration is a free-standing institute of the UMass Boston. Its mission is to promote and facilitate the widespread use of conflict management practices in all sectors of society. For over 20 years, MODR has helped individuals and organizations prevent and resolve conflicts in creative and constructive ways. Through outreach and education, we help people to understand that conflict is natural and that resolution is possible.



## How does mediation work ?

Mediation is a process that helps people in conflict come together in a safe environment to have an open, honest and confidential discussion about the issues. A trained mediator helps the parties clarify issues, explore their options, and work toward a mutually agreed upon solution.

Mediation is strictly voluntary. A mediator does not decide who is right or wrong. It is the parties themselves who determine the outcome. If they are not able to reach an agreement, they are free to pursue other avenues to resolve the conflict.

### What issues can be mediated?

A wide range of disputes which involve individual farmers, farming neighbors or agricultural commissions can be resolved through mediation, including:

- Land use and zoning disputes;
- Nuisance disputes with neighbors;
- Environmental issues;
- Other situations involving farmers which, if not resolved, threaten the economic viability of the farm.



## Why Mediation?

- Parties themselves, not a judge, determine the outcome;
- Mediation is an opportunity for the parties to come together to clarify issues and explore options for possible settlement;
- Mediation can be done at low or no cost to the parties;
- Mediation can often help mend personal and professional relationships;
- Mediation is informal and confidential;
- The final agreement is usually more lasting because it reflects what is most important to the parties.

**TO REQUEST SERVICES**

**CONTACT:**

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