

## KANSAS AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION SERVICES

# MEDIATION AS A USDA PROGRAM APPEAL OPTION

If you receive an adverse decision letter from a USDA Program, you have appeal options. One choice is mediation. For more than 25 years, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) has provided low-cost, confidential financial, legal and mediation services to the Kansas agricultural community.

### **Kansas Ag Mediation Services**

KAMS is a free and confidential place to ask questions and explore options through mediation. KAMS is available to anyone seeking information about agricultural legal, financial and mediation services. We work closely with farm financial analysts, agricultural attorneys and certified mediators to generate solutions. Call our toll-free number, 800-321-FARM (3276) to find out more information, confidentially and at no cost.

#### Mediation

Mediation offers a timely, low-cost alternative to appeals and litigation. The mediation process maintains confidentiality, restores and fosters important communication between USDA personnel and program participants, allows parties to discuss issues and generate solutions in an impartial setting. A KAMS mediator facilitates the mediation at a neutral location convienent for the participants involved.

### Farm Mediation Legal Counseling Program

Experienced agricultural attorneys with Kansas Legal Services (KLS), Inc. provide advice to KAMS participants. They assist in communications and negotiations with USDA personnel, offer legal advice and review implications for proposed solutions. KLS attorneys clarify USDA rules and regulations, leading to viable solutions for all participants.

KAMS funding assists in paying the KLS attorneys fee. Participants are responsible for part of the fee based on a co-pay system. Fees range from \$20-\$80 per hour, based on level of income.



Don't let the 30-day deadline expire!

*Call KAMS!* **800-321-FARM** 

Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment Station
and Cooperative Extension Service

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