

Questions? Can Mediation Help?

Mediation as an NRCS appeal option

If you received an adverse decision letter from NRCS with respect to a preliminary technical determination or a program NRCS administers, you have appeal options. One choice is mediation. For over 25 years, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) has provided low cost, confidential financial, legal and mediation services to the Kansas agricultural community.

What is KAMS?

A confidential place to ask questions and explore options.

What is KAMS mediation?

Voluntary, confidential discussions facilitated by a trained mediator with all participants to clarify issues, identify options, and explore solutions.

Why use KAMS mediation?

Offers a timely, low-cost alternative to appeals and litigation; maintains confidentiality; restores and fosters important communication between USDA personnel and program participants; allows parties to reach their own solutions; and provides an impartial setting in which to openly discuss sensitive issues.

Who can use KAMS' services?

Kansas program participants who have received written notice of an adverse decision and have been offered appeal rights.

How much does it cost?

All calls to KAMS are free and confidential. A \$60 administrative fee is due only when signing an agreement to mediate. An additional fee is shared by FSA and the producer to offset the cost of the mediator. The latter fee can be waived or reduced based on financial situations.

Where are the mediations held?

At a neutral location near the producer's community.

When should I call?

KAMS services are always available, but if you received an adverse decision letter, you must request mediation or appeal within 30 days of receipt of your letter.

What if mediation is not successful?

Program participants will still have the balance of their 30-day appeal period to request other appeal options.

How can I request mediation services?

Send a written request to KAMS within the 30-day appeal period.

Farm Mediation Legal Counseling Program

Experienced agricultural attorneys with Kansas Legal Services, Inc. provide advice to KAMS clients.

- Explain rules, regulations and producers rights and obligations
- Assist communication and negotiation with creditors
- Explore the option of using mediation
- Clarify producers legal rights, responsibilities and implications of proposed solutions
- Define legal documents
- Minimal fees are based on a producer's income level

Remember!

- **Don't let the 30-day deadline expire!**
- What you say remains confidential
- KAMS provides support for you to explore options and make sound decisions
- Additional services are available through KAMS including working with a Farm Financial Analyst
- Anyone can call KAMS with farm/ranch questions or agricultural legal and financial questions

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**KANSAS AGRICULTURAL
MEDIATION SERVICES**

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