

Texas Dispute Resolution SystemTM

Texas Rural Mediation ServicesTM

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A NEW FRONTIER FOR RURAL TEXAS IN 2008 CELEBRATING AN EIGHTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AS STATE CERTIFIED MEDIATION PROGRAM

Lubbock, TX – January 24, 2008 – The Texas Dispute Resolution SystemTM announces the upcoming eight-year anniversary of the Texas Rural Mediation ServicesTM (TRMS) program on March 13, 2008. TRMS is the only state certified agricultural mediation program in Texas and provides alternative dispute resolution services, including mediation and crop insurance arbitration, to agricultural producers and other rural Texans. The Governor appointed Lubbock County to provide this service and as one of only 34 USDA State Agricultural Mediation programs in the nation.

The USDA Agricultural Mediation program administrators know that resolving disputes is crucial to producers, their families and rural communities of Texas. This program allows parties an opportunity to meet with a neutral party to resolve disputes such as:

- USDA agency adverse decisions
- Natural disaster recovery
- Water needs
- Health care needs
- Neighbor disputes
- Housing and economic development

Records show that a majority of all cases that came through TRMS in Fiscal Year 2007 had a positive outcome of an agreement by the parties or a better understanding of the situation. "The real measure of our success is knowing that we helped a producer in need," said D. Gene Valentini, Director of the Texas Dispute Resolution SystemTM, which administers the TRMS program. "This USDA program is unique and should be a model for others on how to make ADR services available to their clients."

"The popularity of the program is growing and with pending changes in farm programs, we should be very busy this year," stated Amanda McDermard, Outreach Manager. "We are very active in Texas, and our continuing New Year's Resolution is to provide the best ADR services to the great state of Texas."

To begin the mediation process or for more information about the program, please call our office toll-free at 1-866-329-3522.

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Texas Rural Mediation ServicesTM, a program operated by the Texas Dispute Resolution SystemTM, promotes and supports mediation activities as designated by the Governor's office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to serve the state of Texas.

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