MARYLAND A GRICULTURAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICE Farm, Agricultural & Rural **Mediation Services**



Maryland Department of Agriculture

50 Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: 410-841-5778 Fax: 410-841-5987 E-mail:marylandacres,mda@maryland.gov

Fact Sheet FACILITATION

What is Maryland ACReS? Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service is the official US

Department of Agriculture (USDA)-certified agricultural mediation program for Maryland, offering confidential assistance to help resolve

agriculture related issues in a productive environment.

What is facilitation? Agricultural facilitation is a voluntary process in which a neutral third party

(the facilitator) assists farmers, citizens, agricultural lenders, and

government agencies to resolve disputes, explore topics, or develop plans

for implementation relative to agricultural issues.

Why facilitation? Facilitation helps participants to collaborate as they explore a topic or issue.

> The goal is to help participants to think productively and ultimately to present key ideas, ask critical questions, uncover variables to find solutions and define productive actions. The facilitator may or may not

be a content expert.

What is facilitated? Facilitated meetings may involve agricultural or related issues requiring

clarification, collaboration and or consensus by several individuals, groups,

stakeholders or communities.

When to facilitate? Facilitation is appropriate anytime there is a need for collaboration,

exploration or definition which will lead to greater understanding of an

issue or topic.

What costs are involved? An initial consultation with Maryland ACReS program staff is at no

> charge. Full or partial waivers of fees may be available depending upon the status of program funds. Any additional legal, financial or technical

advisors, if needed, are paid by the requesting person or organization.

Who to contact? Maryland ACReS is a service of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

To learn more about the services offered contact us at:

Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service

Maryland Department of Agriculture 50 Truman Parkway – Room 208

Annapolis, MD 21401

410-841-5778 or toll free at 800-492-5590

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