



## 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