

## Role Play: Farm Mediation - “Operating” Sibling

**Situation:** Two siblings own a family farm 50 / 50. It was left to them after the death of their parents. In the three years since taking over the farm, one sibling has operated the farm while the other has remained a silent owner. In recognition of the extra value the operating sibling brings to the farm, the farms profits are split 80 / 20 (both siblings agree to this three years ago).

The “silent” sibling has decided not to be silent and longer. They want to see the farm expand into non-traditional crops. The operating sibling resents this interference and has said no! The two are now in a heated disagreement and their personal relationship is suffering. A mediator has been selected to help.

### **Your Position:**

- You love the farm. You worked on it with your father since you were a kid.
- Your sibling does not know the 1<sup>st</sup> thing about farming and you don't know why they are interfering.
- You recognize that non-traditional crops may have value but don't think it is quite as easy as you sibling is says. There will be a need for training and some new equipment.
- You **cannot** afford any reduction in income! Some of these crops have long grow-out times. **It could be five years before farm revenues get back to current levels!** You have three small children and your spouse does not work. You are nearly maxed out on your line of credit and you are under a lot of stress.