

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: **Issues and Prospects in Agricultural Futures Markets: New Entrants, Price Volatility, and Market Performance Implications**

Publication Series: E-Outlook Special Report

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Janet Perry, jperry@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Commodity futures markets have attracted a vastly increased group of participants since 2004. The large increase in open interest for corn, soybeans, and wheat has coincided with a historic price run-up in these commodities and has raised questions of whether market fundamentals or increased trader participation has caused price increases.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [X] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
WAOB
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 01/06/2009 End: Completed: 08/05/2009

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists and market analysts.

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
How:
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

