

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Japan's Beef Market
Publication Series: E-Outlook Special Report

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

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Subject of Review: The report examines the market for beef in Japan and its impact on agricultural trade with the United States. Japan is the world's leading importer of beef by value and was once the most important export market for U.S. beef. Discovery of bovine spongiform encephalitis (BSE) in Japan in 2001 depressed the supply of, and demand for, domestic beef. When BSE was discovered in North America in 2003, Japan imposed severe restrictions on imports of North American beef. Combined with stagnant population and economic growth, this has led to current beef consumption in Japan far below its peak level in 2000. Meanwhile, Japanese consumers' preference for heavily-marbled beef from grain-fed cattle has resulted in a significant share of U.S. feed grain exports going to Japanese beef producers.

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: 12/22/2009 End: Completed: 5/24/2010

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, policy administrator

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

