

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Characteristics and Production Costs of U.S. Hog Operations, 2004
 Influential Scientific Information

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

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Subject of Review: Changes in the structure and performance of hog operations have important
(Preliminary abstract) implications for those associated with the industry. Hog producers have increasingly faced decisions about adjusting the size, organizational structure, and technological base of their operations. This report uses data from an in-depth survey of U.S. hog producers conducted for 2004 as part of USDA's annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The survey collected information from a cross section of U.S. hog operations, including measures of size, production costs, business arrangements, production facilities and practices, and farm operator and financial characteristics. Surveyed farms were first divided into the types of producers common to the U.S. hog industry, and differences among the producer types were evaluated. Differences among farrow-to-finish and feeder pig-to-finish operations were then explored in-depth. Data on structural and farm characteristics and on hog production practices and costs were summarized for these producers in order to explore production cost variation, economies of size, and regional diversity in U.S. hog production.

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: [] Panel Review Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 05/30/07 End: 08/30/07 Completed: 08/30/07

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

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

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

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

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

