

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Expansion of U.S. Ethanol Production and Corn Acreage, 2000-2009

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB

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

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Subject of Review: Agricultural markets can meet the growing demand for corn-based ethanol in several ways: (1) Divert corn from other uses such as exports, food production, and livestock feed, the latter of which is partially offset by the substitution of distillers' grains (a by-product of ethanol production) for livestock feed; (2) Rely on increasing corn yields (bushels per acre) due to both improvements in technology and to increased use of inputs such as fertilizer or irrigation; or (3) Increase the acreage used for corn production by reducing the acreage in other crops, bringing new acreage into crop production, or expanding double cropping. As ethanol production has increased over the past decade, all of these changes in the corn market have occurred. This report examines the expansion in US corn production between 2000 and 2009 with a detailed focus on farm-level evidence between 2006 and 2008, a period of dramatic increases in corn price.

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 [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 07/08/10 End: 08/16/10 Completed: 11/24/10

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

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

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

