

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Characteristics of and Issues about Beef Cow-Calf Farms

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

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Subject of Review: Beef cow-calf farms present a unique set of challenges to agricultural policy makers as the result of an industry structure characterized by a large number of small farms. Several of these small farms specialize in beef cattle production, but most of these farm households generate much more income from off-farm sources than from the farm operation. Most beef cow-calf production occurs on large farms, but cow-calf production is often a secondary enterprise on these farms and relatively few specialize in cattle production. This means that operators of beef cow-calf farms have a diverse set of goals for the cattle enterprise, of which farming as a lifestyle choice is often more important than a profit objective. By providing information about the structural and economic relationships of this unique agricultural sector, this report provides a context for understanding the response of beef cow-calf producers to agricultural policies affecting the industry, such as animal identification programs designed to enhance animal traceability.

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: 08/23//10 End: 11/18/10 Completed: 11/18/10

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

