

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Farms Important to Rural Development Policy's New Focus on Local Foods and Renewable Energy

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Since 2002, USDA's Rural Business and Industry program has been modified to give consideration to assisting some specific farm-related business activity: renewable energy and the local and regional foods industries. In addition, several new programs and program modifications also tend to benefit these same farm-related industries. This is a new direction for USDA's rural development programs, which have historically benefited mainly nonfarm-related business. Using data from USDA's 2007 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, we examine farm, farmer, and location characteristics associated with farmers' involvement in five farm-related business activities: organic farming, value added processing, direct marketing, agri-tourism, and energy/electricity 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: 10/15/10 End: 02/11/11 Completed: 06/23/11

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

