

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Grassland To Cropland Conversion In The Northern Plains: The Role Of Markets And Policy

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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Subject of Review: Native grasslands in the Northern Plains are excellent breeding habitat for migratory birds. There is growing concern that the conversion of grassland to crop production is damaging this habitat and could affect bird populations. To address concerns about the potential role of crop insurance in grassland to cropland conversion, the 2008 Farm Act included a provision that would deny crop insurance for the first five years of production on native grassland converted to crop production in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota at the request of each State's governor. In this report, we focus on three questions: How fast are grasslands being converted to cropland in the U.S. and especially in the Northern Plains? Would the 2008 provision, if implemented, significantly slow grassland to cropland conversion? More broadly, what has been the role of crop insurance and other farm programs in grassland to cropland conversion?

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: 10/25/10 End: 01/20/11 Completed: 01/20/11

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

