

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Agricultural Land Tenure and Carbon Offsets
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB
 Influential Scientific Information
Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA
Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov
Subject of Review: Legislative proposals to reduce greenhouse gases could allow agricultural producers to participate in a national “cap and trade” system. The opportunity to sell carbon offsets could prompt farmers to manage land in a way that increases carbon stored in soil organic matter and plant biomass, including residue. But because carbon is sequestered over time, practical offset agreements will likely require that practices be maintained for 5-10 years. Previous conservation programs requiring agricultural producers to make large investments and long-term commitments provide some evidence of that ownership plays a pivotal role in participation decisions. This report examines the prevalence of rented land and assesses the extent to which the agricultural sector could participate in a national cap and trade program without disrupting current leasing arrangements.

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: 11/18/08 End: 01/12/09 Completed: 06/03/09

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