

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Characteristics, Costs and Issues with Organic Dairy Farming
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: This study uses data from a survey of U.S. dairy operations for 2005 that includes a targeted sample of organic milk producers to examine the structure, costs, and challenges of organic milk production. Analysis is conducted for economies of size, regional differences, and pasture use in organic milk production, along with a comparison of organic and conventional milk production costs. The findings suggest that economic forces are moving organic operations to be more like conventional operations and that the future structure of the industry may depend on proposed changes in the interpretation and implementation of organic pasture rules.

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: 1/29/09 End: 5/7/09 Completed: 5/7/09

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