

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Small Farms in the United States

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

[X] Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

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

Subject of Review: U.S. farm production is shifting to larger operations, while the number of small commercial farms and their share of farm sales continue a long-term decline. But small farms still account for 91 percent of all U.S. farms and 53 percent of the land in farms, which makes them important in rural development efforts involving value-added agriculture and conservation efforts involving land retirement. Although small farms account for only 23 percent of agricultural production, they produce larger shares of specific commodities. This report examines the differences between small and large farms, and among small farms, distinguishing between very small farms (gross cash farm income less than \$10,000) and small commercial farms (with income from \$10,000 to \$249,999).

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 [X] Individual Reviewers

[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 08/25/09 End: 09/30/09 Completed: 11/16/09

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization

Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No