

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Structure and Finances of U.S. Farms: 2009 Family Farm Report
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB
 Influential Scientific Information
Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA
Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: The *Family Farm Report, 2009 Edition* presents comprehensive information about the structure and finances of the diverse types of family farms in the United States. Most U.S. farms—98 percent in 2007—are family operations, and even the largest farms are predominantly family run. This report covers a variety of standard topics, such as the number and size of U.S. farms, the characteristics of their operators, and the finances of farm businesses and the households that operate them. The report also covers the geography of farming, aging operators and the future of farming, and limited-resource farmers. Understanding the different kinds of farms—and the farmers who operate them—is important for developing farm policy. The 2007 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) is the main source of data in this report, supplemented with various censuses of agriculture and ERS farm sector income estimates to follow long-term trends.

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: 11/30/09 End: 01/04/10 Completed: 04/08/10

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