

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Structure, Size, and Performance of Local Food Supply Chains

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: Local food products are increasingly available to consumers through many outlets. Whether local food systems can satisfy consumer, policy, and programmatic demands depends on how food supply chains move products from farms to consumers. In addition to having preferences about the characteristics of food products, consumers and the public may care about how, where, and by whom those products were produced. This report includes a series of coordinated case studies examining the structure and size of local food supply chains compared to mainstream supply chains, and measuring supply chain performance along several economic, environmental, and social dimensions. Local food supply chains exhibit great variety in how they move products from farms to consumers. In most instances, local supply chains face challenges to reduce handling, processing and transportation costs while expanding the availability of high quality products. Successful local food supply chains rely on a combination of business diversification and differentiation of products and services.

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: 02/02/10 End: 03/19/10 Completed: 04/15/10

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