

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Patterns and Trends in U.S. Tillage Practices, with Implications for Greenhouse-Gas Control Efforts

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) Economic Information Bulletin

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

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

Subject of Review: Agriculture can play a role in U.S. efforts to control greenhouse gases if farmers, ranchers, and other rural landowners undertake activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon sequestration. Because of the potential role for tillage in U.S. climate efforts, the Economic Research Service has compiled data on current and past tillage practices by U.S. farmers, as measured by the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The data show that approximately 35.5 percent of U.S. cropland (or 88 million acres) planted to 8 major crops had no tillage operations in 2009. Breakdowns by state and year, for selected crops, are also provided. These data can help policymakers, researchers, and other interested parties understand and predict potential agricultural contributions to U.S. climate change efforts.

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: 04/13/10 End: 08/02/10 Completed: 08/02/10

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