Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Farm Size and the Organization of U.S. Crop Farming

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB)   ERR

                                                   [X]   Influential Scientific Information

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

Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, dpick@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Cropland has been shifting to larger farms. The shifts have been large, centered on a doubling of farm size over 20-25 years, and they have been ubiquitous across States and commodities. But the shifts have also been complex, with land and production shifting primarily from mid-size commercial farming operations to larger farms, while the count of very small farms increases. Larger crop farms still realize better financial returns, on average, and they are able to make more intensive use of their labor and capital resources, indicating that the trends are likely to continue. The report relies on comprehensive farm-level data to detail changes in farm size and other attributes of farm structure, and to evaluate the key driving forces, including technologies, farm organization and business relationships, land attributes, and government policies.

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: 1/10/13   End: 02/21/13   Completed: 03/21/13

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

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