Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Evaluating USDA Long-Run Forecasts for US Harvested Area

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,)   SOR

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

[X]   Influential Scientific Information
[ ]   Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: This report examines the accuracy and bias of the long-run baseline projections for the harvested area of three commodities in the United States: corn, soybeans, and wheat. Since 2007, the combined area harvested of these commodities has exceeded 200 million acres, representing 89% of the growing area of baseline commodities. While the baseline projections predict the entire supply and use balance sheet for agricultural commodities, we focus solely here on acreage since it is typically used as the primary component to determine the rest of the commodity's balance sheet. Ensuring the accuracy of the projections is valuable for policy-makers, farmers, industry members, and more who must consider long timelines in their decision making. This report examines the baseline projections and compares them to three time-series econometric forecasting models. Evaluating and comparing the forecasting approaches helps to improve the accuracy and reduce the bias of future projections.

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Timing of Review (Est.):   Start: 7/31/2019   Completed: XX/XX/19   Withdrawn: XX/XX/19

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