

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Economic Outcomes of Soil Health and Conservation Practices  
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR  
 Influential Scientific Information  
 Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency: Economic Research Service [ ]  
USDA

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Subject of Review: Soil health and conservation practices have the potential to provide important ecosystem services while also improving the profitability of crop and livestock production. However, there are often costs associated with implementing such practices, and environmental impacts and economic outcomes are not universal or always known to producers or researchers. This report summarizes what is known about the use of key soil health and conservation practices (conservation tillage, cover crops, and nutrient management) on cropland in the U.S. and their economic impacts. Specifically, this report: (1) describes linkages between soil health management, producer decision making, and economic outcomes; (2) provides updated estimates of the rates of adoption of key soil health and conservation practices on cropland; (3) summarizes the literature on the economic impacts of soil health and conservation practices; and (4) uses Census of Agriculture and Agricultural Resource Management Survey data to estimate the impacts of a subset of conservation practices on field-level yields and input costs, and farm-level productivity and technical efficiency.

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: 11/22/2022 Completed: 5/29/2024

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

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