

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Impact and Climate Risk of the Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

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Subject of Review: Drought conditions can cause diminished crop yields to total crop failure resulting in economic loss to the U.S. agricultural sector. The effects of drought are particularly pronounced among livestock producers as many of these operations rely on precipitation to grow forage crops to feed their herd. When drought conditions persist and are severe, these livestock producers must decide whether to buy forage/feed to maintain their herd or liquidate. Herd liquidation in response to drought can have negative implications for consumer prices as liquidation today implies diminished future supplies and potentially higher prices. The U.S. Department of Agriculture operates a range of programs designed to help mitigate the drought risk associated with livestock production. Among these, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides payments to producers whose forage production is diminished by drought. Despite the program disbursing nearly \$4 billion dollars to producers between 2008 and 2022, no analysis has been conducted assessing the impact of the program on livestock producer herd liquidation and stocking decisions. The program also constitutes a potential climate risk for the Federal government as climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of drought conditions.

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: 08/03/2023 Completed: 11/14/2023

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

