Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Role of Conservation Programs in Drought Adaption

Type of Report   ERR
(ERR, EIB, EB)

                                       [X]   Influential Scientific Information

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

Agency Contact: Patrick Sullivan, sullivan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: A major drought is among the most serious production shocks a farm can experience. Droughts can result in lost crop and livestock production as well as declines in long-term resource productivity and environmental quality. Farms in drought-prone areas face different risks, and are likely to make different production decisions than farms in areas that face lower drought risk. Many of the practices encouraged by USDA conservation programs—retirement of environmentally sensitive land, investmenr in water conserving technology, and adoption of tillage practices that conserve soil mosture, for example—may also help farmers adapt to drought conditions. This report examines the influence that drought risk has on conservation program participation and explores how these programs could be altered to facilitate drought adaptation.

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: 12/19/11   End: 11/13/12   Completed: 11/13/12

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