

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Marketing Meat Goats: A Case Study Analysis Of the Southern United States

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

SOR

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

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Subject of Review: The meat goat industry is one of the fastest growing segments of the U. S. livestock sector. This stems from the increasing popularity of goat meat across the United States and, particularly, with rapidly growing immigrant communities and consumer groups that have distinct food and religious preferences. The goat industry faces a number of challenges, one of which is the dearth of information on quantity exchanged and price formation at the farm, wholesale, and retail levels. Case studies were conducted in major goat producing states in the Southeastern and Southwestern US, across targeted producers, auctioneers, processors, and retailers in the meat goat industry. Slaughter, both Federally Inspected and Non-Federally Inspected, continues to show an increasing trend, but the growth in Non-Federally Inspected Slaughter is indicative of a sector that consists of relatively small-scale producers who often market their output locally. One-fifth of the animals slaughtered are sold and transported only intrastate, and a significant portion of meat goats are still sold directly from the producer to the final consumer. Given the capital intensive nature of processing, increased investments by farmers could also be beneficial to the process. Overall, timely communication of marketing information (product, costs, pricing) would be necessary to facilitate the process.

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: 09/17/14 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX

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                      No  
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?      Yes                      No

