

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Unfinished Conservation: Why Practices Get Dropped from Conservation Contracts

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

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

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Subject of Review: Since 1996, USDA working lands programs have entered into hundreds of thousands of conservation contracts. Many of the practices specified in these contracts are never installed as planned. While some dropped practices occur because of the need for flexibility when administering multi-year, multi practice contracts, in other cases there may be lost opportunity to get conservation on the ground. This report looks at fiscal year 2010 contracts in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and identifies reasons that practices get dropped. This report examines that evidence and then estimates a model of how restrictions on contract structure might provide one mechanism for reducing the frequency of dropped practices.

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: 1/19/17 End: 8/15/17 Completed: 8/15/17

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