

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Funding and Resource Utilization for Cooperative Extension in the United States

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

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

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Subject of Review: Cooperative Extension is an increasingly state-led activity. USDA funding level for Cooperative Extension at Land grant colleges and universities fell by about 60 percent in real terms from their peak in the 1970s. USDA funding for Cooperative Extension at land grant colleges and universities fell by about 60 percent in real terms from their peak in the 1970s. The Federal share of total Cooperative Extension funding also declined; Land grant universities have diversified their funding sources, supplementing federal funding with the resources from state and county governments and non-governmental grants and user fees. Although Land Grant Universities no longer report the full extent of their extension programs to the USDA, it appears that nationwide, full-time equivalent (FTE) extension staff may have fallen by about 30 percent since its maximum in 1979. Extension activity has become more diversified, with a reduced focus on agriculture. There are also significant differences in program priorities among states and regions.

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: 12/20/2024 Completed: ----

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

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
How:

