

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: USDA conservation programs and policies, fiscal year 2025

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB

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

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: USDA's conservation programs help agricultural producers improve soil health, water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Funding has increased from \$4.1 billion in FY2002 (inflation adjusted to 2023 value) to an estimated \$5.7 billion in FY2024, with three programs (Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Conservation Reserve Program) accounting for approximately 90% of expenditures. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) allocated over \$19 billion in supplemental conservation program funding to be spent from 2023-2031.

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: 12/17/2024 Completed: 3/12/2025

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:
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No