

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Trends and Developments in U.S. Hog Production 1992 to 2009: Technology, Reorganization and Productivity Growth

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

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Subject of Review: U.S. hog production has undergone significant structural change during the past two decades featuring four key elements: increased size of hog enterprises; increased specialization in a single phase of hog production; increased reliance on purchased feed rather than feed grown on the farm; and an increased reliance on formal contracts—connecting farmers, hog owners, and packers—to coordinate production. As the industry has changed, hog producers have had to adjust or cease production. The effects of the changes have extended beyond the industry, as restructuring has heightened environmental risks and nuisance impacts, altered the social makeup of rural communities, raised animal welfare concerns, and lowered prices for pork consumers. This report explores the changing structural characteristics and economic relationships in hog production, and what these suggest for the future of hog farms.

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: 1/31/13 End: 03/26/13 Completed: 05/21/13

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

