Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Farm Profits and Adoption of Precision Agriculture

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

                                        [X]   Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service   [ ]   Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
                        USDA
Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, dpick@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Precision agriculture and its suite of information technologies allow farm operators to
                        fine-tune their production practices and could decrease input costs and increase yields
                        by providing a level of detailed within-field information not previously available.
                        Technologies such as soil and yield mapping using a global positioning system
                        (GPS), GPS tractor guidance systems, and variable rate input-application technologies
                        (VRT) have been shown to raise profits under some conditions, but aggregate
                        estimates of the impact of these technologies have not been available. Currently,
                        adoption of precision agriculture technologies has occurred on 15 to 30 percent of
                        planted corn acres. This report examines whether the use of these technologies
                        among corn producers is associated with higher operating profits.

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: 10/29/13   End: 04/12/2015   Completed: 04/12/2015

Number of Reviewers: [ ]   3 or   [X]   4 to 10   [ ]   More than 10
                                    fewer

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