

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Working the Land with 10 Acres: Small Acreage Farming in the U.S  
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

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

Subject of Review: Nearly 300,000 U.S. farms operate on 10 acres or less. The USDA has a broad definition of a farm, and most small acreage farms do not generate enough sales to support a farm household. Indeed, in any given year, most small acreage farms generate very little, if any, farm production. However, 50,000 small acreage farms reported sales of at least \$10,000 in 2007, and 3,600 reported sales exceeding \$500,000 in sales. This report examines small acreage farms using the 2007 *U.S. Agricultural Census*, with a special focus on small acreage operations reporting \$10,000 or more in gross farm sales revenue. We examine production strategies, types of commodities produced, sales, household income, and financial performance characteristics to determine which small acreage farms are best positioned to operate commercially.

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  Individual Reviewers  
 Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 09/05/12 End: 12/06/12 Completed: 11/18/13

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

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by:  Agency  Designated Outside Organization  
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment?  Yes  No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?  Yes  No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?  Yes  No

