

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Potential Impacts of Immigration Reform on the U.S. Agricultural Crop Workforce

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB

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

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Subject of Review: The majority hired farm workers employed in U.S. agriculture were born outside of the United States. An estimated 4 in 10 of crop workers, not employed on H-2A temporary work visas, lack legal work authorization. Since the 1980's immigration reform bills have been repeatedly proposed in Congress with the stated aim to aid the nation's farmers secure an adequate workforce. The most recent example is the Farm Work Force Modernization Act (FWMA), which includes provisions that would extend legal work status to foreign-born individuals employed in agriculture who lack legal work authorization including: 1) temporary legal status as Certified Agricultural Workers (CAWs) and 2) a potential path to permanent residency for those who continue to meet certain criteria via their employment. Immigration reform legislation impacting farm workers, whether FWMA or a similar law, would have far reaching consequences for US agricultural producers. Using data from the Department of Labor's National Agricultural Workers Survey and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, an estimated 267,000 to 533,000 undocumented crop farm employees would be eligible for CAW status, and an estimated 93,000 to 347,000 would be eligible for a green card (permanent residency) under the criteria defined in FWMA.

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: 5/14/2024 Completed: 8/07/2024

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

