Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title:	Adjusting to Higher Labor Costs in Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,)	EIB
Agency:	Economic Research Service USDA [X] Influential Scientific Information [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
Agency Contact:	Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov
Subject of Review:	This report examines how producers of major labor-intensive fresh fruit and vegetable commodities are dealing with the rising cost of labor. Farm labor costs are rising for several reasons, including fewer newly arrived unauthorized workers and rising State minimum wages. Short-term options to get farm work done with fewer U.S. workers include management changes such as picking fields and orchards less often and introducing mechanical aids that increase worker productivity. Longer term options include more labor-saving mechanization and more imported produce, with H-2A guest workers acting as a bridge to more mechanization. This report examines short- and long-term adjustment options for four major fruit and three major vegetable commodities.
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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 06/11/2021 Completed: XX/XX/XX Withdrawn: XX/XX/XX

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