

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Produce Sourcing and Transportation Cost Effects on Wholesale Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Prices

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: Energy costs are often claimed to be a key determinant of food price inflation in the United States. One way in which energy costs may affect food prices is through transportation and processing costs. Fuel is required for the processing and transportation of the food through the supply chain. Changes in fuel prices can have significant impacts on food price levels and volatility, and those impacts may vary across products or geographic markets.

Fresh produce provides a good amount of variation in perishability and distance from original source to final consumer to examine the effects of transportation costs on food prices. In this report, we focus on the relationship between energy costs and food prices by examining the transmission of fuel prices to fruit and vegetable prices, via transportation costs. Specifically, we focus on asparagus, cantaloupes, table grapes, oranges, bell peppers, and tomatoes, which provide variation in key production characteristics for analysis.

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: 11/13/12 End: 04/18/13 Completed: 04/18/13

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

