

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The H-2A Program in 2020

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

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

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, [kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov](mailto:kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov)

Subject of Review: The H-2A program allows U.S. agricultural employers who anticipate too few U.S. workers to fill seasonal farm jobs to employ guest workers, usually for up to 10 months. The program has grown as fewer unauthorized foreigners seek U.S. farm jobs and current U.S. workers find nonfarm jobs. The H-2A program expanded in FY2020 despite the jump in unemployment due to lockdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This report analyzes the job offers of U.S. agricultural employers seeking DOL certification in FY2020 by State, commodity, and type of employer, calculates the value of job offers to estimate the H-2A wage bill, and examines how freezing the AEWB could affect the wages of H-2A and U.S. workers.

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 08/17/2021 Completed: 11/5/2021 Withdrawn: XX/XX/XX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