

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Reciprocal tariffs and U.S. agricultural trade

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB

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

Agency Contact: Jeffrey Hopkins, jeffrey.w.hopkins@usda.gov

Subject of Review: Reciprocal tariffs occur when two trading partners charge the same tariff rate on a given commodity to provide mutual levels of market access to exporters in both countries. However, for agricultural exports, we observe significant levels of variation in import tariffs across different trading partners. In the case where the U.S. agricultural import tariff is lower than that of a trading partner, domestic exporters face more limited market access than their foreign counterparts. This report investigates whether and to what extent the U.S. faces reciprocal tariffs across agricultural commodities and trading partners. Using tariff data from the World Trade Organization (WTO), this report compares tariff reciprocity in Most Favored Nation (MFN) applied and bound rates between the U.S. and over 150 WTO trading partners for agricultural goods, focusing on comparisons across 10 different commodity groups. Results indicate that the U.S. imposes lower average agricultural tariffs than 90 percent of trading partners. At the commodity level, the largest differences are in live animals and meat, beverages and tobacco, and fruits and vegetables. Within a commodity group, there are significant differences in regional and country-level tariff rates; however, trade agreements may provide a mechanism to achieve more reciprocal tariffs for U.S. exporters.

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: 4/7/2025 Completed:

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

[X] No

How:

[X] No

[X] No