

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: U.S. Wheat Production: Structure, Costs, and Production Practices

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB  
☒ Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service ☐ Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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

Subject of Review: Over the last 50 years, the number of U.S. wheat farms has declined along with the number of planted wheat acres, while planted acreage for corn and soybeans has increased. This raises questions about the net returns of wheat relative to other crops and the types of wheat farms that experience the highest net returns. Questions arise about how wheat farms have changed in the use of inputs and advanced technologies, how input use varies by region and farm size, and how wheat farms and their associated operator households compare with non-wheat farms. This report examines how U.S. wheat farm structure has changed over the past 50 years; how cost of production varies by farm size, region, and wheat type; and the production practices used on wheat farms.

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 ☒ Individual Reviewers  
☐ Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 6/9/2025 Completed:

Number of Reviewers: ☐ 3 or fewer ☒ 4 to 10 ☐ More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: ☒ Agency ☐ Designated Outside Organization

Opportunities for Public Comment? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:  
How:  
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? ☐ Yes ☒ No