

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Characteristics and Production Costs of U.S. Corn Farms, 2010

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

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

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Subject of Review: Data from the 2010 corn version of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) was used to present a snapshot of the production costs, production practices, and characteristics related to U.S. corn production in 2010. This study found considerable variation in the production costs for corn, ranging from an average of \$1.74 per bushel for low-cost producers to \$3.88 per bushel for high-cost producers. In 2010, most producers covered their corn production costs per acre from harvest-month prices. The Heartland continues to be the major corn production region with the lowest operating and ownership costs per bushel mainly due to the region's high corn yields per planted acre. The operating and ownership costs per bushel did not vary significantly by the size of the corn enterprise. Returns from organic corn production were higher than those from conventional corn production due to higher organic corn prices that more than offset lower organic yields.

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: 11/26/13 End: 03/25/14 Completed: 03/25/14

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

