

# Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Changing Structure, Financial Risks, and Government Policies for the U.S. Dairy Industry

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

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

Agency Contact: Paul Heisey, [pheisey@ers.usda.gov](mailto:pheisey@ers.usda.gov)

Subject of Review: Congress reorganized dairy policy in the Agricultural Act of 2014 when it eliminated three programs and created the Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy). The new program aimed to provide farmers with financial protection against risks arising from increasing volatility in milk and feed prices. These developments occurred against a backdrop of ongoing change in dairy product demand, away from fluid milk and toward manufactured products sold in domestic and export markets, as well as ongoing structural change, toward larger dairy farms. This report focuses on the interrelated topics of structural change in dairy production, changes in dairy product markets, growing price volatility, and dairy policy. It details the major developments in each, traces the linkages among them, and identifies the challenges that structural change, evolving product markets, and volatility pose for policy.

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: 04/27/15 End: X/X/15 Completed: 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

