

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Reducing Nutrient Loadings from Livestock Agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

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

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

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Subject of Review: Despite several decades of regulation and encouragement of nutrient run-off reduction via regulation, subsidies, financial and technical assistance, and education, manure remains a significant contributor to Chesapeake Bay nutrient loadings. Based on ongoing poor water quality in the Bay, in 2010 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the area, requiring polluters to enhance their discharge reduction efforts. Two foci of TMDL implementation plans are greater oversight of confined livestock operations and development of nutrient trading programs. Given past attempts to reduce manure-based nutrient run-off have not yielded the desired goals, a new policy avenue may be to include livestock operations in nutrient trading. However, livestock operators may differ from crop-only producers in nutrient trading participation for a number of reasons. This report provides an overview of manure nutrient generation and uptake in Chesapeake Bay watershed counties and models agricultural producers' participation in nutrient trading according to crop versus livestock specialization.

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: 05/13/15 End: 11/09/15 Completed: 11/09/15

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

