

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Structure, Costs, and Technology Used on United States Dairy Farms
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: Over the past two decades, the U.S. dairy industry has continued to evolve rapidly, with fewer dairy farms producing more milk. Continued industry structural change raises questions about how dairy farms have changed in size; diversification; location; use of advanced technologies, management practices, and production systems; and cost of production. Questions also arise about economies of scale in the dairy industry and the structure of large dairy farms as compared to smaller-scale dairy farms. Shifts in location of milk production led to questions about how dairy farm size, diversification, use of technology, and cost of production differ by U.S. region. This report addresses issues of how dairy farm structure has changed over the past two decades, how it differs by size of operation, and how it differs by U.S. region.

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: 12/4/2023 Completed: 3/7/2025

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

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