Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Potential Economic Outcomes of Integrating Livestock and Cover Crop Systems

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

Agency: Economic Research Service

Agency Contact: Kelly B. Maguire <kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov>

Subject of Review: Cover crops can provide multiple environmental benefits, and their use is increasing across the U.S. However, cover crops are also costly to implement—and the magnitude of the economic and environmental benefits depends on how the cover crop is managed and used. For operations with livestock, direct grazing or harvesting of cover crops can be a cost-effective option to add feed to livestock rations or extend the grazing season. This report summarizes the existing literature on the profitability of using cover crops for forage, which suggests that integrating cover crops into livestock systems can be profitable due to the direct forage benefit provided by the cover crop. We also present new findings from federal census and survey data on the prevalence of cover crop use (and harvesting of cover crops) on livestock operations.

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

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 3/31/2022 Completed: --/--/--- Withdrawn: --/--/---

Number of Reviewers: [x] 3 or fewer [ ] 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