

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Agricultural Science Policy and the Farm Bill

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB

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: Public investments in agricultural research and development (R&D) have been a major driver of long-term productivity growth in U.S. agriculture and have generated significant economic returns. In 2021, total federal, state, and nongovernment spending on public agricultural R&D was \$5.0 billion, with more than two-thirds coming from the Federal Government. When adjusted for inflation, spending in 2021 was 36 percent less than its peak of \$7.7 billion in 2002 (in 2021 dollars). The USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is the primary source for Federal extramural grants for agricultural research by state land grant universities and cooperating institutions; NIFA research grants have moved toward greater use of competitive grants with away from capacity (formula) funding to states. By 2024, NIFA funding for research, education, and extension that target minority-serving land-grant institutions has risen to nearly 15 percent of NIFA's total budget authority.

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: 12/17/2024 Completed: 2/12/2025

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:

