

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Pesticide Use in U.S. Agriculture, 1960-2008

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

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

Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, [dpick@ers.usda.gov](mailto:dpick@ers.usda.gov)

Subject of Review: Chemical pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and others have contributed to substantial increases in crop yields over the course of the past 60 years. Pesticides contribute to higher yields and lower input costs by controlling weeds, insects, and disease pathogens. Pesticides also reduce the amount of labor, machinery, and fuel used for pest control. However, because pesticides are toxins, pesticide usage often prompts concern about human health and environmental consequences. Using data compiled from pesticide use surveys carried out by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Economic Research Service (ERS) of the USDA, and Doane Marketing Research Inc, this report examines pesticide use trends since 1960 to better understand changing uses of specific categories of pesticides, and the driving forces behind these changes.

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: 1/15/13 End: 03/01/13 Completed: 07/18/13

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

