

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Weather Effects on Expected Corn and Soybean Yields

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB,) Special Outlook Report

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

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Subject of Review: Weather during the growing season is critical for corn and soybean yield development. Adjusting for weather in analysis of historical U.S. corn and soybeans yields is important for determining underlying trends and future yield expectations. Models for U.S. corn and soybean yields provide estimates of the effects of weather on yields for those crops, allowing those effects to be netted out to derive weather-adjusted trend yields. The corn model also includes planting progress by the middle of May. The estimated models indicate that the responses of corn and soybean yields are asymmetric for variations in precipitation in the summer—reductions in precipitation below its average result in larger declines in yields than the gains in yields resulting from equal-sized increases in precipitation above its average. The yield models developed are used to track effects of high temperatures and drought on U.S. corn and soybean yields in 2012 and to provide estimates for expected 2013 yields. Further, the models provide a framework for assessing changes in expected yields in response to planting progress and weather developments.

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: 4/15/13 End: 5/30/2013 Completed: 5/30/2013

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

