

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Concentration and Competition in U.S. Agribusiness

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

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

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Subject of Review: Concentration, and its impact on competition in markets, has attracted growing public scrutiny as well as several policy initiatives. Critics argue that increased concentration has led to higher product prices, increased corporate profits, reduced wages, less innovation, and waning productivity growth. The issues surrounding concentration extend to agribusiness, and particularly to three agribusiness sectors where concentration has increased over time: seeds, meatpacking, and grocery retailing. This report details how consolidation proceeded in each sector, with attention to the important driving forces, and the effects on prices and innovation. Because mergers among firms have played a role in each sector's consolidation, the report also describes Federal antitrust policy regarding mergers, and its implementation in these sectors.

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: 07/15/2022 Completed: 12/30/2022

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