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**To:** NCCC-134 Project Proposal Reviewers

**From:** Stephen R. Koontz

**Re:** Mid-Term Review and Summary of Annual Reports

The purpose of this memo is to provide a very brief summary of NCCC-134 activities over the past 3 years. It is intended as a Mid-Term Report. Annual reports filed within NIMSS provide more detailed information of each meeting including location, participants, papers presented, and minutes of the project business meeting. This memo will not duplicate any of the details in those reports. This summary is to provide an overall perspective of breadth of activities.

NCCC-134 has been in existence since 1983. It is an information sharing communication and facilitation project. There are a significant number of agricultural economists interested in applied commodity price analysis, forecasting and market risk management throughout the U.S. – and Canada and Europe – but many are located at different universities and government agencies. There are very few universities with multiple faculty in this area. The NCCC-134 project provides a forum for those persons to interact, network, discuss, critique, and collaborate on applied commodity price analysis, forecasting and market risk management research. Because of the information sharing and communication facilitation, the project has had a substantive impact on applied commodity price analysis, forecasting and market risk management research. Much of the current accepted practice was developed, discussed, and improved through project meetings. A significant portion of the seminal work was first presented at project meetings. These points are also communicated in the project objectives, activities, and impact statement.

The project is run by a coordinator and an Executive Committee. The coordinator calls the annual meeting by announcing a selected paper competition. Anyone is eligible to submit an abstract for presentation at the meetings and the meeting is open to anyone with an interest in the topic. 28 papers from the pool are selected for each meeting. The meeting is 1 & ½ days. The meeting structure is such that detailed results can be presented and discussed. Preliminary research and findings are encouraged so that project participants can be aware of interesting findings and new science. After the meeting, paper presenters are invited to incorporate meeting discussion into the work and publish the work on the project websites. There is significant

collaborative work that emerges through the project meeting.

A major milestone for the committee in the 2005, 2006, and 2007 time period was to develop a more user-friendly website with which to access NCCC-134 news, announcements, and past meeting papers. The website is <http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/nccc134/>. The website contains meeting announcements, information relevant to project participation, a link to joining the email list for the project, and the entire 26 year history of meetings papers. The committee also posts papers at the University of Minnesota Library website AgEcon Search. This website includes project participant works in larger search engine, however, the site is more difficult to use. The published meeting papers are main output from the project and are the lasting impact of the project.

The NCCC-134 committee held three annual meetings in the 2005-2007 time period. Two meetings were in St. Louis MO and one was in Chicago IL. 116 abstracts were submitted to NCCC-134's Executive Committee for review. 28 papers were accepted for presentation at each meeting. Thus, there were 84 presentations made at the 3 project meetings. 58 papers at published at the project's websites for these 3 meetings. The papers are main observable output from the project. There were 145 total participants at those meetings. There are many more authors – and people participating in NCCC-134 relative work – than attending the meetings. There are approximately 200 authors associated with the works. Many of the committee participants are not formally associated with the project through NIMSS or CSREES. For example, the current committee coordinators are Mark Manfredo at Arizona State University and Dwight Sanders at Southern Illinois University. Neither university is a Land Grant University. Further, the project has had regular participation from faculty at Canadian universities and western European universities.

The annual reports uploaded to NIMSS list the participants, the papers presented, summarize the industry speaker's role in the meeting, and summarize the committee business meeting. An important point seen in these documents are the level of national participation in the conference and that this project is output oriented through the presentation and discussion of research.

The project has a long history, documented productivity, and is a well-known institution to agricultural economists working on applied commodity price analysis, forecasting and market risk management questions.

Thanks for your time.