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PROJECT 1 ABSTRACT

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In order to identify fungicides and biological products that are effective in minimizing damage from Fusarium head blight (FHB), uniform fungicide treatment trials for FHB control have been established in spring wheat/barley regions and in winter wheat regions of the United States. The establishment of a trial using a core set of treatments across a number of states allows evaluation of products and application methods for consistency of performance over a wide number of environments and across grain types affected by FHB. Also, because FHB does not occur every year in every location, having multiple sites for the uniform trial increases the chance of favorable results at some locations each year.

The first years of the Uniform Fungicide Trial have resulted in changes in products labeled for use by producers. The strobilin fungicide Quadris received federal registration during the summer of 1999, the triazole fungicide Folicur was granted special exemptions for use in 1999 in some states and the triazole fungicide Tilt was granted state labels for use against FHB. Valuable efficacy data on experimental or new fungicides such as Stratego (combination product of Tilt and Flint) and the strobilin fungicide BAS 500 have been obtained. Over the years of the Uniform Fungicide Trial, results in locations with FHB indicated favorable control with many of the tested products.

Recent mergers between agricultural chemical companies means a change in available products and a shift in experimental products available for testing. The 2003 Uniform Fungicide Trial will evaluate standard treatments, new experimentals and biological treatments across many environments to get additional information on their efficacy and performance consistency. Treatments will be applied using spray nozzles directed at an angle toward the grain heads to substantiate that improvements in application technologies can be made across the trial sites. The Uniform Fungicide Trial provides information and data that directly relates to the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative's goal to develop as quickly as possible effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium head blight to the producers, processors and consumers of wheat and barley.