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Research Category: MGMT

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Project Title: Uniform Fungicide Trial for Scab on Winter Wheat in Illinois.

PROJECT 1 ABSTRACT

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The goal of this study is to test the efficacy of fungicides across multiple locations in Illinois for their effects on Fusarium head blight (FHB) control and their ability to reduce deoxynivalenol (DON) levels in harvested soft red winter wheat grain. These trials will include the uniform fungicide treatments that will be evaluated in similar studies across multiple states.

Like many other states in the Midwest, when the conditions are favorable for FHB in Illinois, losses can be devastating. Illinois wheat production has varied between approximately 650,000 to nearly 1 million acres in the last five years. With the current high demand and market price for wheat, wheat acreage in Illinois will be strong in the near future. In Illinois, a large percentage of the wheat is drilled into corn stubble, which increases the chance for FHB, since corn is another host for the FHB pathogen, *Fusarium graminearum*. Although some wheat cultivars are available that have partial resistance to FHB, fungicides are still one of the necessary tools that growers need to help manage this disease. Illinois has received a section 18 emergency exemption for tebuconazole fungicide in many of the previous seasons (including 2007) to help growers control FHB. Data collected from the multi-state uniform fungicide trials have helped Illinois (and other states) receive this section 18 exemption from U.S. EPA. As of January 2008, tebuconazole still has not received a full section 3 registration on wheat in the U.S. It is important for Illinois wheat growers to have access to results from unbiased regional fungicide trials that will help them make informed decisions about managing FHB with fungicides; results of these proposed trials will provide them with that information.

This proposal addresses priority numbers 2 and 3 of the USWBSI's FHB Management Research Area Action Plan: 2.) Enhance communication and end user education/outreach; and 3.) Develop the next generation of management tools for FHB/DON control. Funds provided through the USWBSI will be used to leverage additional support from agrichemical companies that will allow testing of additional fungicides, rates, and/or application timings beyond those in the uniform fungicide trials.