

**USDA-ARS/
U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative
FY12 Final Performance Report
July 16, 2013**

Cover Page

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Fiscal Year:	FY12
USDA-ARS Agreement ID:	59-0206-9-083
Grant Title:	Fusarium Head Blight Research
FY12 USDA-ARS Award Amount:	\$ 54,936

USWBSI Individual Project(s)

USWBSI Research Category*	Project Title	ARS Award Amount
EC-HQ	National Survey of Wheat and Barley Producers on Scab Management.	\$ 38,042
MGMT	Influence of Variable Pre-anthesis Rainfall Patterns on FHB and DON in Wheat.	\$ 16,894
	Total ARS Award Amount	\$ 54,936

Principal Investigator

Date

* MGMT – FHB Management
 FSTU – Food Safety, Toxicology, & Utilization of Mycotoxin-contaminated Grain
 GDER – Gene Discovery & Engineering Resistance
 PBG – Pathogen Biology & Genetics
 BAR-CP – Barley Coordinated Project
 DUR-CP – Durum Coordinated Project
 HWW-CP – Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project
 VDHR – Variety Development & Uniform Nurseries – Sub categories are below:
 SPR – Spring Wheat Region
 NWW – Northern Soft Winter Wheat Region
 SWW – Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat Region

Project 1: *National Survey of Wheat and Barley Producers on Scab Management.*

1. What major problem or issue is being resolved relevant to Fusarium head blight (scab) and how are you resolving it?

Until we understand barriers to adoption of management practices, we cannot hope to effectively surmount them. At present, we lack basic information on topics such as acreage by variety; how growers get / don't get information about scab; access to variety ratings and seed of resistant varieties; where scab fits into farmers' priorities; who is using / not using the risk forecasting system, and why; and the main incentives driving decisions about scab management, such as the extent and rate of rejection and/or dockage in scab years.

2. List the most important accomplishment and its impact (i.e. how is it being used) to minimize the threat of Fusarium head blight or to reduce mycotoxins. Complete both sections (repeat sections for each major accomplishment):

Accomplishment:

Working with NASS and a USWBSI team of researchers and stakeholders, the survey has been developed and refined, and the process of obtaining OMB approval is underway.

Impact:

The national 17-state survey of wheat and barley producers will yield unique and valuable information about attitudes and practices related to scab management. It will help us characterize how scab management practices are actually being used, both quantitatively and qualitatively. It will also help us identify barriers to adoption of the best scab management practices, and develop strategies to help overcome these barriers.

Project 2: *Influence of Variable Pre-anthesis Rainfall Patterns on FHB and DON in Wheat.*

1. What major problem or issue is being resolved relevant to Fusarium head blight (scab) and how are you resolving it?

No previous studies have taken into consideration differences in moisture or rainfall patterns during the 7- to 10-day window prior to wheat anthesis. In the present wheat scab risk forecasting model, the total duration or volume of pre-anthesis precipitation (or high RH) may occur in a single rain event, at the very beginning/end of the 7-day window, or it may accumulate over the course of several rainy days. The distribution of precipitation is likely to differentially affect processes important for FHB development and DON accumulation.

2. List the most important accomplishment and its impact (i.e. how is it being used) to minimize the threat of Fusarium head blight or to reduce mycotoxins. Complete both sections (repeat sections for each major accomplishment):

Accomplishment:

In concert with researchers at Ohio State University and University of Minnesota, data are being generated on how various patterns of wet and dry days during the week prior to wheat flowering affect Fusarium head blight. Specifically, we are acquiring data on spore frequencies on wheat spikes; disease symptoms; Fusarium-damaged kernels; and DON.

Impact:

This research will help us refine the current risk forecasting model. Results will provide further insight into the role of moisture in the development of FHB and contamination of grain with DON. They will contribute to ongoing disease/toxin risk assessment efforts. Data from these trials could identify predictor variables for future FHB and DON modeling. From personal communications with stakeholders and extension specialists, there is a sense that users of the risk tool have difficulty interpreting the model output. Results will help users of the current FHB risk tools to better interpret the model output, especially for cases of intermittent rainfall that may be on the cusp of low-moderate risk.

Include below a list of the publications, presentations, peer-reviewed articles, and non-peer reviewed articles written about your work that resulted from all of the projects included in the grant. Please reference each item using an accepted journal format. If you need more space, continue the list on the next page.

Cowger, C. “Known Knowns and Known Unknowns: Assessing Adoption of Scab Management Tools.” In: S. Canty, A. Clark, A. Anderson-Scully and D. Van Sanford (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 2012 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (pp. 11-12). East Lansing, MI/Lexington, KY: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.