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The primary purpose of the project is to urgently develop winter-hardy, FHB-resistant winter wheat germplasm that can be used (a) immediately and directly as parents in initial crosses with elite breeding lines, and (b), be used in pre-breeding to continue to develop breeding parents with more complex, pyramided resistance. Diverse sources of FHB resistance are being targeted for introgression; ie (a) the Sumai 3-derived genes *Fhb1*, *Fhb2* and *Qfhs.ifa-5A*, (b) two QTL respectively located on chromosome arms 5AS and 5AL of the hexaploid wheat PI277012, and identified by Dr S Xu, USDA-ARS Northern Crop Science Laboratory, Fargo, ND, and (c), a Frontana-derived gene on 3AL. The winter-hardy varieties Norstar, Jerry, Peregrine and Decade were used in crosses with three hard red winter and 13 hard red spring wheat resistance sources. The F₁ from these crosses were used in the following ways:

- (1) During 2012, Heartland Plant Innovations produced 583 DH lines off six of the crosses. The material is currently being multiplied and genotyped for the presence of *Lr34*, *Fhb1* and *Rht-B1b* and is destined for field planting in the fall of 2013. Another ± 150 haploid plants were produced at NDSU that are currently being treated with colchicine for chromosome doubling.
- (2) Marker-aided single seed descent inbreeding (*Lr34*, *Fhb1*, *Qfhs.ifa-5A* and *Rht-B1b* as appropriate) was initiated with seven crosses with the aim to produce an additional 500-800 inbred lines for field planting in the fall of 2013.
- (3) An FHB testing facility at Carrington was expanded to allow for routine FHB resistance screening of segregating populations. Approximately 500 F₃ families pre-selected for plant height and derived from five winter X winter crosses that involve FHB resistance obtained from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada were planted (fall 2012) at Carrington. In addition seven F₃ bulk populations from winter X spring crosses derived from the SSD inbreeding program (above) and pre-selected for *RhtB1b* and *Fhb1* (where appropriate) were included. These will be artificially inoculated and selected for FHB resistance and continued conventional inbreeding.
- (4) The male sterility gene, *Ms3*, was established in a winter wheat pre-breeding population so as to allow for future recurrent selection as an additional means to continue to exploit and pyramid the FHB resistance genes that are being introgressed.