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

### **PROJECT 1 ABSTRACT**

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The main techniques for minimizing FHB and DON in wheat and barley are well-established and often available. Yet adoption of techniques remains uneven in some parts of the U.S. While data are available on acreage by variety for the hard wheat and durum wheat area, in most soft wheat states there are no data on wheat / barley acreage by variety, and thus no good estimates of acreage planted to scab-resistant varieties. Anecdotal evidence suggests the share of acreage planted to moderately resistant (MR) varieties is low in some states and market classes. Effective use of risk forecasts and fungicides is also difficult to estimate, but is probably low relative to need.

Until barriers to adoption of management practices are better understood, it will be difficult to surmount them. At present, basic information is lacking 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; the main incentives driving decisions about scab management, such as the extent and rate of rejection and/or dockage in scab years; and changes in incentives, pricing, discounts, seed availability, and policy that might encourage adoption.

The USWBSI is commissioning a comprehensive NASS survey of wheat and barley producers in small-grain producing states vulnerable to scab epidemics. The survey will quantify adoption of FHB management practices and help measure progress to date. The information will be valuable in breeding, extension, and discussions with stakeholders. A baseline will be established against which to measure future progress. Tools will be gained to confront the most critical challenge: scab management practices have been clearly identified and publicized, but are not always widely used.

A planning workshop was held in FY12 (January 25, 2013) with PI, collaborating scientists, and several NASS representatives to develop the survey and establish a plan for analyzing data (which will likely occur in year 2). The services of Dr. Michele Marra, an agricultural economist at North Carolina State University, have been engaged in order to ensure proper survey design, analysis and interpretation, and Dr. Marra participated in the workshop. The questionnaire has been designed and is ready for pretesting.

At the workshop and since then, a number of helpful suggestions have been made on how to maximize grower participation in the survey. Strategies include notices in commodity group newsletters and outreach by extension personnel.