

Fusarium Head Blight Epidemiology Workshop

A Fusarium head blight epidemiology workshop was held March 18 at North Dakota State University (NDSU), Fargo, ND. Dr. Len Francl and his students and staff hosted the workshop and provided researchers working in the epidemiology section of the U. S. Wheat and Barley Fusarium Head Blight Initiative with the opportunity for hands-on training and increased communication. Dr. Glen Statler, chair of the Plant Pathology Department welcomed participants and later led a tour of the department facilities.

The workshop, co-organized by North Dakota State University and The Ohio State University, attracted twenty researchers from North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, New York and Manitoba. Participants received instruction and training on sensor operation and datalogger programming for Campbell Scientific environmental monitoring equipment presented by Dr. Len Francl, NDSU, and Dr. Erick De Wolf of The Ohio State University/OARDC. Ms. Carrie Buttke and Mr. Tim Friesen, NDSU, presented information on efficacious spore collection and necessary adaptations to Burkard spore collection equipment for Fusarium research. Mr. Shaukat Ali and Mr. Tim Friesen, NDSU, offered a presentation regarding Fusarium species identification and assisted workshop attendees in examining cultures of representative *Fusarium* species. Instruction and discussion sessions regarding factors affecting perithecia development and risk assessment were provided by Dr. De Wolf. Mr. Larry Osborne, South Dakota State University, demonstrated a soil surface moisture sensor. Dr. Ruth Dill-Macky, University of Minnesota, and Dr. Bob Todd of NDSU gave updates regarding their residue management and pathogen survival research. The workshop concluded with a discussion of uniform protocols for disease prediction research in the 2000 growing season. Workshop participants had the unique opportunity to meet and discuss at length issues essential for maintaining a unified direction and facilitating cooperative epidemiology research.



Participants of the Fusarium Head Blight Epidemiology Workshop, Fargo North Dakota