



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

FY14 USWBSI Recommended Funding Process

Summary of the Process used by the USWBSI to Generate a Comprehensive Research Plan and Budget Recommendation for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14)

Each year, the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative is charged with the task of developing a comprehensive research plan and budget recommendation that is aimed at achieving its primary mission: develop as quickly as possible effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium head blight (scab), including the reduction of mycotoxins, to the producers, processors, and consumers of wheat and barley. The entire process followed to develop this research plan and budget is a product of deliberations overseen and approved by the USWBSI Steering Committee (SC). The composition of the SC is designed to give voice to all stakeholders in the operation of the USWBSI.

This year's review process was completed on December 5, immediately following the final session of the 2013 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum. The USWBSI's Networking and Facilitation Office (NFO) orchestrated this process in close consultation with the Executive Committee (EC). The process involved a call for pre-proposals and review of the submitted pre-proposals by one of ten Review Panels (RPs) or Coordinated Project Committees (CPCs) and the Executive Committee (EC). In a few instances, the nature of a pre-proposal dictated that it be reviewed by an External Reviewer. A total of 116 pre-proposals (included several multi-PI pre-proposals) were submitted from 79 Principal Investigators (PIs) at 26 Land Grant Universities and the USDA-ARS.

Each RP/CPC delivered to the EC a review summary that classified each pre-proposal into one of three categories: 1) recommended for funding within the "working cap", 2) recommended for funding but not within the working cap, and 3) not recommended for funding. The working caps were derived from a process that involved the entire SC. For the "in-cap" category, the RPs/CPCs identified their highest priority pre-proposals and adjusted their individual award totals so their collective sum was equal to or less than the working cap. For the second category, the RPs identified pre-proposals they judged worthy of funding but none the less omitted from "in-cap" category. Pre-proposals in that category were assigned unique rankings (1 to n) by the RPs/CPCs. The RPs/CPCs evaluated all pre-proposals in the context of the Research Priorities and Program Descriptions, which are derived from the USWBSI's Action Plan.

The Executive Committee (EC) is charged with developing a draft of a comprehensive research plan and budget that is scientifically sound and minimizes imbalances among the tremendous range of geographical, commodity, institutional, business sector, and disciplinary

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interests held by the stakeholders who have made the USWBSI possible. After consultation with the Research Leaders on December 2nd, the EC constructed a comprehensive recommendation composed of 135 pre-proposals (including several multi-PI) from 83 PIs. The sum of all recommended award amounts is exactly equal to the \$5,030,830 that was anticipated to be available to USDA-ARS for collaborative scab research for FY14.

On the afternoon of December 5, the EC's recommended research plan and budget was presented to the Steering Committee (SC) for its consideration. The SC was briefed on the details of the entire process and allowed to study the EC's recommended research plan and budget. Subsequently, a motion to endorse the EC's draft plan was passed by a unanimous vote of the SC. The draft plan consequently became the official USWBSI comprehensive research plan and budget recommendation for FY14. This plan is currently being translated into individual USDA-ARS **Grant Applications**, which will be submitted en mass as the USWBSI's *recommendation* for how USDA-ARS could allocate the resources awarded it by the U.S. Congress.