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## ***News Release***

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### **National Fusarium Head Blight Forum Set for Dec. 10-12**

“Action” is the operative word for the 2006 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum. Scheduled for December 10-12 in Research Triangle Park, N.C., the annual forum is open to grain growers, grower group representatives, public and private scientists, millers and other food processors, and consumers. It is sponsored by the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI), a national cooperative research effort established to find effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium Head Blight (“Scab”) to the producers, processors and consumers of wheat and barley.

According to USWBSI co-chair Dave Van Sanford, this year’s forum will focus on developing an action plan for the next five years in the critical effort to manage and minimize this serious threat to the nation’s wheat and barley sectors. Previous FHB forums have revolved around scientific presentations and poster sessions. While poster sessions remain an important part of the 2006 event, this year’s forum will highlight talks by key industry stakeholders, along with brainstorming (breakout) sessions within and among the various research areas under the USWBSI umbrella. There will also be a special tour of the new genotyping center of the USDA-ARS Plant Science Research Center located at North Carolina State University.

“We believe this year’s format will allow participants to play an important role in determining how we proceed during the next several years,” notes Van Sanford, a wheat breeder with the University of Kentucky. “Simultaneously, the poster sessions and extensive opportunity for one-on-one interaction among

forum participants ensure that attendees will be exposed to the latest research results and other progress in our effort to manage this disease.”

The Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in Research Triangle Park will serve as headquarters for the 2006 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum. For registration information and other event details, log on to <http://www.scabusa.org/forum06.html>. Interested persons can also call the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (517-355-0271, Ext. 183) or e-mail the Initiative at [scabusa@scabusa.org](mailto:scabusa@scabusa.org).