

PREFACE

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The U. S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) was conceived and implemented in 1997 in response to the economic devastation caused by head scab. Since that time, approximately \$38,287,433 has been disbursed through USDA-ARS grants to scientists in eight research areas. Each year since 1998, the Initiative has hosted the National Fusarium Head Blight Forum for the purpose of bringing together the community of individuals affected by head scab – wheat and barley growers, processors, consumers and researchers. Since its inception, the objective of the Forum has been to share scientific findings and research results that are aimed at achieving the overarching goal of the USWBSI, i.e., the development and implementation of “*control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium Head Blight (Scab) to the producers, processors, and consumers of wheat and barley*”. The 2006 Forum is no different in that it seeks to bring these individuals together to focus on the research that is most likely to achieve this goal. What distinguishes this forum from previous ones is that the discussion and analysis of research findings will be used to design an Action Plan for the next few years. Recent research results will be presented in poster sessions that are interspersed with breakout and planning sessions. More than ever, the focus will be on research, but the objective will be to design a research strategy that will significantly lower DON levels and reduce the economic impact of scab within a 3 year time frame. As always, stakeholders are invited to the forum to have a voice in shaping the future of the Initiative.

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