U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative

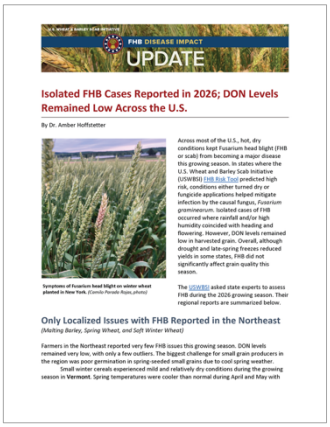
For Immediate Release

Contact: Michelle Bjerkness, USWBSI Director of Operations, nfo@scabusa.org

2026 Fusarium Head Blight Disease Impact Update Reports Isolated Cases; DON Levels Remained Low Across the U.S.

November 4, 2026 – The U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) *2026 Fusarium Head Blight Disease Impact Update* is now published. Expert commentary from 29 states showed that dry conditions across most of the U.S. kept Fusarium head blight (FHB) from having a significant impact this growing season. In states where the FHB Risk Tool predicted high risk for heading and flowering small grains, conditions either turned dry or fungicide applications and resistant varieties helped mitigate FHB occurrence and DON levels remained low in harvested grain. USWBSI's FHB Risk Tool provided accurate predictions and enabled those utilizing the tool to make appropriate management decisions.

Farmers and extension specialists are utilizing the information provided by the USWBSI including the FHB Risk Tool, fungicides, and crop varieties in making production decisions on effective management strategies. "This report highlights the national expertise we have in understanding FHB development, and the impact of collaborative USWBSI research that is used by growers to manage FHB in wheat and barley. We have a remarkable success story at the USWBSI. We have resistant varieties, a reliable disease forecasting tool, and recommendations for optimizing a fungicide application. This has resulted in major wins for farmers and downstream end-users," said **Andrew Friskop**, USWBSI Researcher Co-Chair and North Dakota State University associate professor and cereal crop extension plant pathologist.


FHB DISEASE IMPACT
UPDATE
Isolated FHB Cases Reported in 2026; DON Levels Remained Low Across the U.S.
By Dr. Amber Hoffstetter
Only Localized Issues with FHB Reported in the Northeast

The Fusarium Head Blight Disease Impact Update provides an annual report of the crop growing conditions as well as the impact of FHB on wheat and barley in different regions of the United States. Additionally, photos from the different growing regions have been included to highlight specific crop conditions. The USWBSI has been releasing this update article annually since 2010 to provide insight into the impact of FHB during each growing season.

For readers interested in learning more about Fusarium Head Blight of wheat and barley visit ScabUSA to find publications and resources produced by USWBSI-funded researchers. Producers can also view the USWBSI FHB Risk Tool developed by researchers in the USWBSI, to monitor FHB risk during the growing season. Real-time FHB Alerts sent out during the growing season are also provided by the USWBSI free of charge, learn more and subscribe on the website.

The USWBSI is a national multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research consortium whose goal is to develop effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium Head Blight (scab), including the production of mycotoxins, for producers, processors and consumers of wheat and barley. The USWBSI's more than $8 million annual allocation comes from federal funds appropriated through the USDA-ARS and is distributed to 115 research projects in 30 states.

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For more information about the USWBSI please contact the Networking & Facilitator Office (NFO) Director of Operations, Michelle Bjerkness, at 612.990.5032 or nfo@scabusa.org.

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