



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

For Immediate Release

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USWBSI Opens FY26 Funding Opportunities for Fusarium Head Blight Research and Outreach

November 25, 2025 – The U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) has officially received USDA approval to open the [FY26 Request for Pre-Proposals \(RFP\)](#) and the corresponding [USWBSI Pre-Proposal Submission System](#), inviting researchers at Land Grant Universities or with USDA-ARS to submit innovative project proposals aimed at combating Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). This disease poses a significant threat to wheat and barley production and food safety nationwide.

“USWBSI coordinated research plays a pivotal role in protecting the nation’s wheat and barley supply,” said Dr. Ruth Dill-Macky, USWBSI Researcher Co-Chair. “The innovations and scientific discoveries that emerge from these projects help ensure more resilient crops, viable solutions for our farmers and safer food for processors and consumers.”

The FY26 RFP marks the start of a new funding cycle and includes research priorities aligned with the updated USWBSI Action Plan. All principal investigators, including currently funded PIs, must submit new pre-proposals to be considered for funding. This year’s **Pre-Proposal Submission Deadline has been extended to January 7, 2026.**

In addition to the research funding opportunities, the **FY26 RFP introduces a call focusing exclusively on Outreach projects related to FHB.** This opportunity seeks projects that translate cutting-edge research into actionable disease management strategies for farmers, particularly those newly confronting FHB challenges.

“We strongly encourage researchers, extension specialists, and outreach experts to consider submitting collaborative proposals for the new FHB Outreach Project category,” said Richard Magnusson, USWBSI Grower Co-Chair. “It is critical that the knowledge we generate gets into the hands of those who can use it, especially those who may lack first-hand experience, to reduce FHB disease risk and protect crop quality.”

FHB Outreach proposals should target farmer education to close knowledge gaps, improve farmer preparedness, and support widespread adoption of FHB mitigation practices. This category seeks to enhance the adoption of best practices and promote collaboration between the research and production communities.

To access the full FY26 RFP and submit a proposal, visit: https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-fy26

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Eligible applicants include principal investigators from land-grant institutions and USDA-ARS scientists. Projects must align with the [USWBSI Action Plan](#). Funding Categories include: [Category 1](#) – Commodity-based and VDR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects, [Category 2](#) – FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Projects, [Category 3](#) – Research Area Individual Projects in FHB Management, Food Safety & Toxicology, Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance, and Pathogen Biology and Genetics, and [Category 4](#) – Special Projects focused on FHB Outreach.

The USWBSI is a national multi-disciplinary 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 \$8.6 million annual budget comes from Federal funds appropriated through the USDA-ARS.

U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative Networking & Facilitation Office

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