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News Release

One-Stop Scab Management Website Now Operational

Grain producers and others looking for the latest information on the management of Fusarium Head Blight (scab) now have a valuable new tool:

“Scab Smart” is the name of a just-activated website designed to serve as a quick guide to the integrated strategies that result in optimum reduction of Fusarium Head Blight and its primary associated mycotoxin, deoxynivalenol (DON). Scab Smart provides users with two ways of accessing information, according to Marcia McMullen, North Dakota State University extension plant pathologist and coordinator of the site’s development. “You can go directly to the management strategy you’re interested in,” McMullen explains, “or you can go to the grain class and then to the strategy for that class.”

Management strategy categories include variety resistance (by grain class and by state), scab forecasting, fungicides, crop rotation and other strategies (such as residue management, planting date and harvest practices). The covered grain classes include hard red spring wheat, durum wheat, spring barley, hard red winter wheat, soft red winter wheat (broken down by northern and southern regions), soft white wheat and hard white wheat.

Scab Smart's content will be updated on an ongoing basis as new management information becomes available, McMullen emphasizes.

The website can be accessed at www.scabsmart.org or by logging on to the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative's site — www.scabusa.org — and clicking on the Scab Smart link.

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