

**USDA-ARS/
U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative
FY07 Final Performance Report (approx. May 07 – April 08)
July 15, 2008**

Cover Page

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Fiscal Year:	2007
FY07 ARS Agreement ID:	NA
Agreement Title:	U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative's Networking and Facilitation Office and Website.
FY07 ARS Award Amount:	\$ 35,500

USWBSI Individual Project(s)

USWBSI Research Area*	Project Title	ARS Adjusted Award Amount
EC/HQ	U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative's Networking and Facilitation Office and Website.	\$ 35,500
	Total Award Amount	\$ 35,500



7-14-08

Principal Investigator

Date

* CBCC – Chemical, Biological & Cultural Control
EEDF – Etiology, Epidemiology & Disease Forecasting
FSTU – Food Safety, Toxicology, & Utilization of Mycotoxin-contaminated Grain
GET – Genetic Engineering & Transformation
HGR – Host Genetics Resources
HGG – Host Genetics & Genomics
IIR – Integrated/Interdisciplinary Research
PGG – Pathogen Genetics & Genomics
VDUN – Variety Development & Uniform Nurseries

Project 1: *U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative's Networking and Facilitation Office and Website.*

1. What major problem or issue is being resolved and how are you resolving it?

The Scab community requires easy to use, comprehensive, and centralized tools for data management and dissemination. These tools are provided, maintained, and created as necessary by the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative. A suite of in-house designed and customized off the shelf software packages are hosted by a U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative server computer. Most applications are accessed through a friendly web browser based interface that can be accessed from any internet connected computer and at any time, day or night. These services include online calendars, weblogs, community mailing lists, forum registration, forum proceedings purchasing, and discussion boards. Standard web pages are also employed to provide online information sources concerning research areas, news, annual forums, literature, and useful links. Additionally, the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative maintains a web-accessible database (the USWBSI database) that allows querying and downloading of public information.

An improved feature set, better user interface, more services, and improved reliability are goals of the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.

2. List the most important accomplishment and its impact (how is it being used?). Complete all three sections (repeat sections for each major accomplishment):

Accomplishment (1): Electronic Pre-Proposal Submission System

Impact (1): After last year's successful partial implementation of the Electronic Pre-Proposal Submission system (EPS), it was determined that the system could be broadened to include all of the research areas for this year's Pre-Proposal submission process. User feedback from last year's beta interface was used to build a list of features and a process flow that would be easy and intuitive for first time users and to expand on the system's features. The improvements to the system are still underway but are scheduled to be finished before the Pre-Proposal Submission process starts on August 1, 2008.

The beta system was based on a software package named "E-Groupware". This package was replaced with a similar package called "Xoops" because the new package contains more features, a much improved user interface, a larger support community, and was written in the same programming language, allowing code written for the old software to be easily ported into the new system.

The EPS is now the default mechanism for users to submit their funding pre-proposals and associated paperwork. The system is also used by pre-proposal reviewers to access these documents during the pre-proposal review process.

As a result of that accomplishment, what does your particular clientele, the scientific community, and agriculture as a whole have now that they didn't have before? (1):

The EPS streamlines the pre-proposal process by making it more convenient for users to both submit and to review pre-proposals. The web interface is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week so users can perform their tasks at their convenience. The system is also faster than the old paper system which required forms be mailed to the Initiative's office. The process was also designed around the principle of making the whole submission process simple for the users and reviewers.

Accomplishment (2): Electronic Document Management System

Impact (2): The Document Management System (DMS) provides an easy to use interface for users to store electronic documents of any type in a secure and centralized location. This has helped the community to increase data sharing and collaboration. The DMS is a plugin module for the Xoops software package that is the basis for the EPS described above.

As a result of that accomplishment, what does your particular clientele, the scientific community, and agriculture as a whole have now that they didn't have before? (2):

The DMS allows for more community based information sharing and collaboration. Users have a simple interface that allows them to easily manage documents. They control their own online file systems and may keep documents private or share with them with any number of user/groups that have been registered in the Xoops system.

Files may also be edited by users with proper permissions and then resubmitted to the DMS which has a comprehensive revision control system.

Include below a list of the publications, presentations, peer-reviewed articles, and non-peer reviewed articles written about your work that resulted from all of the projects included in the grant. Please reference each item using an accepted journal format. If you need more space, continue the list on the next page.

Forum Proceedings:

Canty, S., A. Clark, D. Ellis and D. Van Sanford (Eds.). 2007. Proceedings from the 2007 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum, Kansas City, MO; December 2-4. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Proceedings are available in PDF format on the USWBSI's Website (<http://www.scabusa.org/forum.html#forum07>).

Newsletters:

Lilleboe, D., S. Canty, and D. Van Sanford. Spring 2008. *Fusarium Focus*. U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative. Volume 8, Issue 1.

Lilleboe, D., S. Canty, and D. Van Sanford. Fall 2007. *Fusarium Focus*. U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative. Volume 7, Issue 2.

Press Releases:

06-17-08 News Release: Scab Incidence Varies Across Midwestern States.

05-19-08 News Release: Early Southern Scab Reports Mixed.

01-07-08 News Release: USWBSI Announces new Co-Chair.

10-08-07 News Release: Scab Disease Generally Low across U.S. in 2007.

07-30-07 Press Release: USWBSI Mourns Loss of Co-Chair Tom Anderson.

All Press Releases are available in PDF format on the USWBSI's Website (<http://www.scabusa.org/news.html#newsletters>).