

**USDA-ARS/  
U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative  
FY14 Final Performance Report  
July 15, 2015**

**Cover Page**

<b>PI:</b>	William Bockus
<b>Institution:</b>	Kansas State University
<b>Address:</b>	Department of Plant Pathology 4024 Throckmorton Hall 1712 Claflin Rd. Manhattan, KS 66506
<b>E-mail:</b>	Bockus@ksu.edu
<b>Phone:</b>	785-532-1378
<b>Fax:</b>	785-532-5692
<b>Fiscal Year:</b>	FY14
<b>USDA-ARS Agreement ID:</b>	59-0206-1-110
<b>USDA-ARS Agreement Title:</b>	Development of Scab Resistant Wheat Cultivars for Kansas.
<b>FY14 USDA-ARS Award Amount:</b>	\$ 41,000

**USWBSI Individual Project(s)**

<b>USWBSI Research Category*</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>ARS Award Amount</b>
HWW-CP	Development of Scab Resistant Wheat Cultivars for Kansas.	\$ 41,000
	<b>FY14 Total ARS Award Amount</b>	<b>\$ 41,000</b>

Principal Investigator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* MGMT – FHB Management

FSTU – Food Safety, Toxicology, & Utilization of Mycotoxin-contaminated Grain

GDER – Gene Discovery & Engineering Resistance

PBG – Pathogen Biology & Genetics

EC-HQ – Executive Committee-Headquarters

BAR-CP – Barley Coordinated Project

DUR-CP – Durum Coordinated Project

HWW-CP – Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project

WES-CP – Western Coordinated Project

VDHR – Variety Development & Uniform Nurseries – Sub categories are below:

    SPR – Spring Wheat Region

    NWW – Northern Soft Winter Wheat Region

    SWW – Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat Region

**Project 1:** *Development of Scab Resistant Wheat Cultivars for Kansas.*

**1. What major problem or issue is being resolved relevant to Fusarium head blight (scab) and how are you resolving it?**

Serious scab (Fusarium head blight) epidemics occurred in Kansas in 1982, 1990, 1993, 1995, 2008, 2009, and 2010 and annual losses average \$4.4 million. Approximately one million acres of wheat in the eastern part of Kansas are annually at risk from scab where rainfall is higher during heading and corn residue is more prevalent. Since 1980, wheat acreage in the eastern one quarter of Kansas has declined by two thirds and a major cause of the decline has been farmer aversion to the risk of scab epidemics. Therefore, the availability of cultivars with resistance to scab is highly desirable for eastern Kansas. Additionally, there are two main reasons that scab has the potential to become much more prevalent in central Kansas where wheat is the traditional dominant crop (about 4 million additional wheat acres). First, there is a trend for increasing cultivation of corn in that part of the state, the main reservoir of inoculum of the scab pathogen. Second, there is a strong trend for decreasing tillage, which enhances spore production and release from the residue. Resistant wheat cultivars adapted to this area of Kansas would also be highly desirable. Genetic resistance offers the best hope for economic management of this disease. The long-term goal of this research is to develop hard red and hard white winter wheat cultivars adapted for Kansas with improved resistance to scab. Short term objectives are to: 1) test existing local cultivars for resistance, 2) test advanced breeding lines for resistance, 3) test exotic germplasm lines for resistance, 4) test the Hard Winter Wheat Scab Nursery (Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota) for reaction to scab, and 5) incorporate new sources of scab resistance into the Kansas wheat breeding program. Testing will be done in misted field nurseries using soil-applied infested corn grain inoculum and in the greenhouse using single-floret inoculations. Visual disease evaluation methods will be used to rate the percentage spikelets killed by the pathogen and ground grain samples will be analyzed for the toxin DON. Data will be disseminated to wheat producers and used by wheat breeders as they make selections for future Kansas cultivars.

**2. List the most important accomplishments and their impact (i.e. how are they being used) to minimize the threat of Fusarium Head Blight or to reduce mycotoxins. Complete both sections; repeat sections for each major accomplishment:**

**Accomplishment:**

Until involvement in the USDA Scab Initiative, there was virtually no effort to identify sources of scab resistance in Kansas breeding programs. The Initiative has resulted in the development of accurate and efficient greenhouse and field testing nurseries that are providing useful ratings for current cultivars in Kansas and advanced breeding lines, and allow participation in the regional scab nurseries. Respectively, these nurseries allow dissemination of information to growers on the reaction of current commercial cultivars, selection by breeders for scab resistance in their breeding lines, and identification of

additional sources of resistance from other breeding efforts in the region that can be incorporated into Kansas breeding lines. Kansas has also taken the lead in organizing a Hard Winter Wheat Scab Screening Nursery for the hard winter wheat breeding programs of Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. This latter nursery provides valuable data on the reaction of hard winter wheat cultivars to scab in their area of adaptation. The long-term goal of the research is to develop, deploy, and advertise winter wheat cultivars adapted for Kansas with improved levels of resistance to scab. In 2009, Kansas released the first hard red winter wheat cultivar adapted to Kansas selected for improved levels of resistance to scab.

**Impact:**

Two commercial cultivars in Kansas (Hondo and Heyne) were identified in 2000 (and confirmed in later years) as having good levels of scab resistance (3 and 4 on the 1-9 scale where 1=immune and 9=highly susceptible). These cultivars averaged only 12 and 15% scab, respectively compared with about 50% in susceptible cultivars. Similarly, the cultivar Lakin has shown moderate levels of resistance with 22-34% scab. Six other commercial cultivars have also displayed moderate levels of resistance equal to, or better than, Lakin. Therefore, we have identified a few sources of scab resistance already present in cultivars adapted to Kansas that can be used by producers and may be potential sources of “native” resistance for the development of future cultivars. Both KSU wheat breeders and the USDA wheat geneticist have been involved in the project by having their breeding lines evaluated for resistance to scab. Several breeding “populations” are tested each year from which the breeders make selections of promising lines showing resistance. Also, there are approximately 40 advanced breeding lines (The Kansas Intrastate Nursery) that are tested each year. Because of the scab testing efforts, a new column for reaction to “Head Scab” was added to the popular KSU extension publication *Wheat Variety Disease and Insect Ratings* for the fall, 2000 issue and has been updated in each subsequent year. For the first time, this has allowed producers in Kansas to use the reaction to scab to help select cultivars for planting. Similarly, data produced from nurseries funded by the Scab Initiative have been incorporated into another popular extension publication (*Kansas Performance Tests with Winter Wheat Varieties*). Both publications are available as “hard copy” or online. The involvement of breeders has resulted in significant progress to improve the level of resistance to scab in future commercial wheat cultivars. This research has resulted germplasm releases in 2004 and 2014 from Kansas State University with resistance to scab. It normally takes 10-12 years to produce a new wheat cultivar from the time initial crosses are made. Right on schedule, the first Kansas scab-resistant cultivar (Everest) produced directly from the activity of the Initiative was released in Fall 2009, 10 years after beginning to receive funding from the Initiative. It has increased in popularity so that it is now is the number one planted cultivar in Kansas. The adoption of this cultivar has significantly lowered the susceptibility of the state’s wheat crop to scab; 22% lower statewide and 40% lower in the eastern part of the state where scab is prevalent.

### Training of Next Generation Scientists

**Instructions:** Please answer the following questions as it pertains to the FY14 award period. The term “support” below includes any level of benefit to the student, ranging from full stipend plus tuition to the situation where the student’s stipend was paid from other funds, but who learned how to rate scab in a misted nursery paid for by the USWBSI, and anything in between.

1. **Did any graduate students in your research program supported by funding from your USWBSI grant earn their MS degree during the FY14 award period?** No

**If yes, how many?**

2. **Did any graduate students in your research program supported by funding from your USWBSI grant earn their Ph.D. degree during the FY14 award period?** No

**If yes, how many?**

3. **Have any post docs who worked for you during the FY14 award period and were supported by funding from your USWBSI grant taken faculty positions with universities?** No

**If yes, how many?**

4. **Have any post docs who worked for you during the FY14 award period and were supported by funding from your USWBSI grant gone on to take positions with private ag-related companies or federal agencies?** No

**If yes, how many?**

**Include below a list of all germplasm or cultivars released with full or partial support of the USWBSI during the FY14 award period. List the release notice or publication. Briefly describe the level of FHB resistance. *If not applicable because your grant did NOT include any VDHR-related projects, enter N/A below.***

1. Bernardo, A., Bai, G., Yu, J., Kolb, F., Bockus, W., and Dong, Y. 2014. Registration of near-isogenic winter wheat germplasm contrasting in *Fhb1* for Fusarium head blight resistance. *Journal of Plant Registrations* 8:106-108 (KAES #13-333-J).

Lines containing *Fhb1* had 68-92% less disease in the greenhouse and 70-79% less disease in the field than corresponding susceptible lines.

**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 FY14 grant. Please reference each item using an accepted journal format. If you need more space, continue the list on the next page.**

1. Jin, F., Bai, G.-H., Zhang, D.-D., Dong, Y.-H, Ma, L.-J., Bockus, W., and Dowell, F. 2014. *Fusarium*-damaged kernels and deoxynivalenol in *Fusarium*-infected U.S. winter wheat. *Phytopathology* 104:472-478.
2. Bernardo, A., Bai, G., Yu, J., Kolb, F., Bockus, W., and Dong, Y. 2014. Registration of near-isogenic winter wheat germplasm contrasting in *Fhb1* for *Fusarium* head blight resistance. *Journal of Plant Registrations* 8:106-108.
3. Peiris, K. H. S., Dong, Y., Bockus, W. W., and Dowell, F. E. 2014. Single-kernel near-infrared analysis for evaluating wheat samples for *Fusarium* head blight resistance. *Cereal Chemistry* 91:35-40.
4. Bockus, W. W., De Wolf, E., and Wegulo, S. N. 2014. Effect of Prosaro fungicide application on *Fusarium* head blight in eight winter wheat cultivars, 2013. (online) *Plant Disease Management Reports* 8:CF005. DOI:10.1094/PDMR08. The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN.
5. Bockus, W. W., Zhang, G., Fritz, A., Davis, M., Baenziger, P., and Berzonsky, W. 2014. Reaction of Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota winter wheat accessions to *Fusarium* head blight (FHB), 2013. (online) *Plant Disease Management Reports* 8:CF025. DOI:10.1094/PDMR08. The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN.
6. Bockus, W. W., Baenziger, P. S., Berzonsky, W., Caffè, M., Davis, M. A., Fritz, A. K., Marais, G., Ranson, J., Wegulo, S. N., and Zhang, G. 2014 Hard winter wheat scab nurseries – 2006 to the present. *Fusarium Focus* 14:7.
7. De Wolf, E. D., Bockus, W. W., and Whitworth, J. R. 2014. Wheat Variety Disease and Insect Ratings 2014. Kansas Cooperative Extension Service publication MF-991. 4 pp.
8. B.S. Gill, B. S., Cainong, J. C., Feng, Y., Chen, P.D., Qi, L. L., Danilova, T., Koo, D-H., Sehgal, S. K., Bockus, W.W., and Freibe, B. 2014. Chromosome engineering and next generation sequencing assisted transfer and deployment of alien grass species resistance to FHB in wheat. *Proceedings of the 2014 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (p. 54). St. Louis, MO, WI: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
9. Bai, Guihua, Cai, Jin, Su, Zhengqi, St Amand, Paul, Bernardo, Amy, Bockus, William, Baenziger, Stephen, Carber. Brett, Fritz, Allan, Berzonsky, William, and Marais, Francois. 2014. Using marker-assisted selection to improve hard winter wheat FHB resistance. *Proceedings of the 2014 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (p. 74). St. Louis, MO, WI: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
10. Clinesmith, Marshall A., Bockus, William, Fritz, Allan, and Poland, Jesse A. 2014. Mapping of quantitative trait loci for FHB and DON resistance in a doubled haploid population of Everest × Art. *Proceedings of the 2014 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (p. 79). St. Louis, MO, WI: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
11. Peiris, K. H. S., Bockus, W. W., and Dowell, F. E. 2014. FT-NIR optical characteristics of sound and *Fusarium* damaged wheat at two moisture content levels. *Proceedings of the 2014 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (p. 90). St. Louis, MO, WI: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.

FY14 (approx. May 14 – May 15)

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12. Bockus, W. W. 2014. Update on Fusarium head blight research. Presentation at the USDA Brown Bag Lunch. Nov. 11, 2014.