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**Project ID: FY14-VA-004**

**ARS Agreement #: 59-0206-4-001**

**Research Category: EC-HQ**

**Duration of Award: 1 Year**

**Project Title: US Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative's Networking & Facilitation Office and Website.**

### **PROJECT 1 ABSTRACT**

(1 Page Limit)

This project is a key component of the Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) which operates under the direction of Dave Van Sanford, Director of the NFO. The primary activity of this project is to employ and house the Manager of the NFO, Sue Canty. This project also provides additional resources for the Manager to carry out the activities of the NFO, although the financial support for carrying out the majority of the NFO's activities will be funded by the NFO project under the direction of David Van Sanford at the University of Kentucky. The title of Dr. Van Sanford's project is the "U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative's Networking & Facilitation Office." It will be funded under USDA-ARS Extramural Agreement 59-0206-1-082. The Manager also interacts closely with the half-time web programmer (Dave Hane) who is responsible for maintaining the Initiative's web presence. The web programmer is based at USDA-ARS, Albany, CA working under the direction of Dr. Ann Blechl.

The Networking and Facilitation Office (NFO) is the administrative and communications headquarters for the USWBSI, and it operates under the direction of the Director of the NFO, under the auspices of the Executive Committee of the USWBSI, and is governed by the Policies and Procedures of the USWBSI. The objectives of the NFO are: 1) Maintain and enhance the Resource Management/Accountability Center; 2) Facilitate and enhance communication within the Initiative and with its stakeholders; 3) Administer the process of developing the Initiative's annual recommended research plan and budget; and 4) Manage and implement all meetings and conferences.

The NFO is also responsible for creating and implementing the annual performance reporting procedure, coordination of the annual Scab Forum, all committee meetings, and the dispersal and storage of information. These activities are critical to helping the Initiative reach its goals of developing effective control measures that decrease the threat of Fusarium head blight to the producers, processors, and consumers of wheat and barley. The NFO promotes communication among the varied parties interested in scab, and represents the Initiative's only 'fixed' asset. The NFO is continuing to develop methods that provide all stakeholders and interested parties with dynamic documentation of the Initiative's activities in order to minimize the gaps in knowledge and to provide a means of achieving a high level of accountability.