

USDA-ARS
U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative
FY20 Annual Performance Progress Report
Due date: September 29, 2021

Cover Page

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USDA-ARS Agreement ID:	58-0206-9-178
USDA-ARS Agreement Title:	U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative's Networking & Facilitation Office and Website
FY20 USDA-ARS Award Amount:	\$ 398,937
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Project/Grant Reporting Period:	5/1/20 - 7/31/21
Reporting Period End Date:	7/31/2021

USWBSI Individual Project(s)

USWBSI Research Category*	Project Title	ARS Award Amount
EC-HQ	US Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative's Networking & Facilitation Office and Website	\$ 398,937
FY20 Total ARS Award Amount		\$ 398,937



Sept. 29, 2021

Principal Investigator

Date

* MGMT – FHB Management
FST – Food Safety & Toxicology
R- Research
S – Service (DON Testing Labs)
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
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: *US Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative's Networking & Facilitation Office and Website*

1. What are the major goals and objectives of the research project?

The objectives of the NFO are to:

- 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.

2. What was accomplished under these goals or objectives? *(For each major goal/objective, address these three items below.)*

a) What were the major activities?

1) Resource Management/Accountability Center:

- A new backup/email server was purchased and installed. The previous system was aging and its tower case format forced it to be installed in an insecure room on a slow network. The new system was an upgrade to a rack server which allowed it to be placed in a secure server room with faster networking. The new system also had upgraded RAM, CPU speed, and storage.
- The shared file drive, email, and backup server was migrated over to the new server. All of the services had to be upgraded and reconfigured to run on the new server/new network. Several improvements were made to these services for better performance and security. A new backup system was created to perform better with the new system and to improve the secure transfer of files from the production server to the backup server. The domain's email system was also updated to further prevent mail going out from the scabusa.org domain being labelled as SPAM and to prevent domain spoofing/forgery.
- The old Forum registration system was updated to work with the new virtual Forum format. The registration scripts were re-written with new and updated fields. The database schema was also changed to accept the new data. The administrative scripts also had to be updated.
- A new virtual poster registration and viewing service was created because of the virtual Forum. A new registration system was created to allow users to register and upload virtual posters and associated videos. The posters and videos were viewed in a newly created online viewing system. A new

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administration system was also created to work with the new system and the added abstracts, posters, and videos.

- A new bulletin (i.e. discussion) board system was installed and customized to work with the new virtual Forum format. It has not yet been utilized, but the system is still active on the system and ready for future use.
- A new Year 2 Review System was created to work with the Electronic Pre-proposal System to allow for review of funding requests for continuing projects. This system required changes to the uploading of documents, administrative interface, and viewing scripts.
- The migration process has begun to merge the Login database into the existing Contacts database. Users and institutions were synced in the two databases. The registration scripts were updated to work with the new dual database setup. The final merge of the two databases will be finished next fiscal year. This process will make the data more secure and accurate. It will also allow users to update their own information.
- Four new states (CA, WA, SC, AL) were added to the DON labs testing website and maps. New web pages for each of these states were also added to the DON website.

NFHB Forum Registration System

This year the USWBSI utilized the registration system of the University of Minnesota for payment processing of the NFHB Forum registrations. The Destiny One platform offers an out-of-the-box tool with connectivity directly to the UMN accounting system for payment processing. Staff training took place on the platform system and requirements and all setup components were put into place. A unique online registration form was then developed for the 2021 NFHB Forum, meeting parameters of the virtual event with varying attendee types and pricing. Customization was incorporated, and confirmation emails and payment receipts were implemented. Reporting tools were modified to address data requirements. The system went live at the end of July and will be utilized through December. Evaluation of effectiveness will take place after the event for future consideration.

- 2) Annual Fusarium Head Blight Forum:** The annual Forum is the primary mechanism whereby USWBSI scientists and stakeholders come together to discuss both the progress being made, as well as problems that interfere, with the successful combat against this devastating disease.

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- Hosted the 2020 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum: the NFO working with the Forum Organizing Committee facilitated the USWBSI's annual scientific Forum, which was held via Zoom. The Forum was included two and a half days of meetings held over a five day period (Dec. 7-11, 2020). We offered one of our research sessions (FHB Management) to allow for private growers, crop consultants, etc. to earn Continuing Educational Units (CEU) credits for the first time. At the end of the first day, one of our stakeholders (Siemer Milling) provided a virtual tour of some of the research plots and one of the mills. That was followed by a virtual mixer that included random breakout groups with pre-designed questions. Research results and findings were presented to the Forum participants in the form of invited talks (21), Flash & Dash presentations (18) and poster presentations (57). Following the close of each poster session question and answer session, time was allocated to group discussions designed around the USWBSI's four research areas and six coordinated projects.

The 365 registered attendees included scientists research associates, research technicians and graduate students, growers, and industry representatives from across the nation and around the world, as well as area leaders of the U.S. wheat and barley industries. Abstracts or papers (64) of these various presentations were published in the Forum proceedings.

- **Planning for the 2021 National FHB Forum.**
The USWBSI Executive Committee (EC) deliberated on whether or not to hold an in-person, virtual or hybrid (combination of in-person/virtual) Forum for 2021. A survey of our PIs, Stakeholders and past participants was done to get a sense of what the level of participation would be for each of these options, taking in consideration the impact of COVID. The results of the survey led the EC to the decision to hold the Forum virtually again for 2021. As a result, the NFO had to cancel the contract with the hotel, but was able to minimize the penalty.

Planning is ahead of schedule this year, with the new incoming Director of Operations taking the lead on the Forum planning, and working closely with the Forum Organizing Committee (FOC). The Forum schedule is set and most of the speakers have been selected for the invited talks. Forum registration is due to open at the end of July.

- 3) **Development of the USWBSI's FY21 Research Plan and Budget - approved by USDA-ARS in April 2021:** One-hundred and fifty-nine (159) research projects across six (6) research areas (FHB Management; Food Safety & Toxicology, Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance; Pathogen, Biology & Genetics;

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Transformational Science; Variety Development and Host Resistance (includes Spring Wheat, Northern and Southern Winter Wheat Coordinated Projects)), three commodity-based coordinated projects (Barley, Durum, and Hard Winter Wheat), and the USWBSI Headquarters (Office and Website), were recommended for funding in the amount of \$8,655,897 to continue the research efforts to mitigate FHB.

b) What were the significant results?

- 1) An improved and more secure website.
- 2) First successful Forum held on Zoom, with over 385 attendees.
- 3) Finalization of the FY21 Research Plan & Budget, that includes six new Transformational Science projects

c) List key outcomes or other achievements.

1) Objective i.

- Upgraded EPS System to accommodate review of continuing projects.
- Upgraded backup/email server – added security and speed.
- Development of online Poster Room for 2020 Forum
- New discussion board for private on-line discussions
- Expanded DON testing web site.
- New on-line Forum registration system.

2) Objectives ii-iv.

In addition to organizing the 2020 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum, the USWBSI's first Forum held using video teleconferencing (Zoom), the NFO also facilitated the finalization of the FY21 Research Plan & Budget. This included distributing a new call for pre-proposals in the early months of 2021 under the new category called Transformational Science (TSCI). The goals of this new category was to attract the expertise of early career scientists that are not currently part of the Initiative, recruit and explore new ideas and research approaches, and develop integrated projects that leverage the strengths of the Initiative. The USWBSI-NFO received 15 pre-proposals and recommended for funding 6 new projects, with funding totaling \$551,360.

A summary of committee meetings, conference calls, research-based workshops and committee nominations, appointments and elections that were organized, facilitated or supported by the NFO are provided in Table 1.

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Table 1. Summary of Administrative Meetings (via Zoom) and Research-based Workshops/Planning meetings facilitated or supported by the Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) during FY20 award period.

Committee/Group	# of Meetings/ (Zoom)/ Nominations	Description/Purpose of Meeting/Nominations (Elections- Appointments)
Steering Committee (SC)	2 Meetings	12-11-20: Semi-Annual Meeting – Review and approval of EC’s recommended FY21 Research Plan and Budget. 04-01-21: Semi-Annual Spring Meeting
Executive Committee (EC)	19 Meetings	06-06-20: Semi-Annual Spring Meeting – 2020 Forum – Going virtual; Mid-Term Committee Appointments; Search for Grower Co-Chair. 07-28-20: Discussed format for 2020 Forum 10-28-20: Updated on planning of 2020 Forum; Prep for FY21 Funding review; Update on search for Grower Co-Chair; Updated on search for new NFO Director of Operations. 11-16-20 am: Interview candidate for Co-Chair 11-16-20 pm: Interview candidate for Co-Chair 11-17-20 pm: Interview candidate for Co-Chair 11-19-20 am: Discuss and make recommendation for new Grower Co-Chair to be voted on by the Steering Committee 12-02-20 pm: EC Executive Session – 2021 Research Plan & Budget; 12-02-20 pm : EC met with review panels to discuss their recommendations; 12-03-20 pm: EC met with review panels to discuss their recommendations; 12-03-20 pm: EC Executive Session; 12-04-20 am: EC discussed recommendations from review panels for FY21 Research Plan and Budget (RP&B). 12-04-20 pm: EC discussed recommendations from review panels for FY21 Research Plan and Budget (RP&B). 12-11-20 pm: EC finalized plan to move forward with FY21 RP&B. 03-11-21: Finalize funding on Transformational Science Pre-proposals. 03-25-21: Semi-annual meeting – prep for SC’s semi-annual spring meeting 05-05-21: EC discusses new Funding model and approves Research Priorities for FY22 05-12-21: EC decides to cancel in-person Forum and hold as virtual again for 2021. 06-30-21: EC finalizes recommendation for FY 22 working caps

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Committee/Group	# of Meetings/ (Zoom)/ Nominations	Description/Purpose of Meeting/Nominations (Elections- Appointments)
FY21 Review Panels (RP)		All review panels scheduled their own meetings this past year.
Research-based Planning Meetings	6 Planning Meetings	03-17-21: VDHR-SWW Coordinated Project Planning Meeting for FY22 03-17-21: Durum Coordinated Project Planning Meeting for FY22. 03-19-21: VDHR-SPR Coordinated Project Planning Meeting for FY22 04-21-21: Barley Coordinated Project Planning Meeting for FY22 04-27-21: VDHR-NWW Coordinated Project Planning Meeting for FY22 05-10-21: Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project Planning Meeting for FY22.
Grower Co-Chair	1 Appointment	Steering Committee appointed the new Grower Co-Chair recommended by the Executive Committee
Steering Committee	2 Elected	Steering Committee Election of new members for the following constituent areas: Malting & Brewing Industry, and Pasta Industry. Two individuals were elected.
Executive Committee	2 Appointments	Executive Committee: Barley (mid-term appointment) and Grower Co-Chair (all grain classes)
Research Committees	(n=7): 12 vacancies excluding Chair and Vice-Chair appointments	Research Committees (RC) appointments/re-appointments: Barley CP – 1 member and Chair Durum CP – 1 member VDHR Northern Soft Winter Wheat CP – 2 members and Chair VDHR Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat CP – 1 member and Chair FHB Management - 2 members, Chair and Vice-Chair Pathogen Biology & Genetics – 3 members, Chair and Vice-Chair Gene Discovery & Engineering Resistance – 2 members and Chair

3. Was this research impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. university shutdowns and/or restrictions, reduced or lack of support personnel, etc.)? If yes, please explain how this research was impacted or is continuing to be impacted.

Yes. For the safety of our participants/attendees, the USWBSI Executive Committee decided to hold the Forum using a video teleconferencing platform (Zoom) rather than hold an in-person event. This meant that for the first time ever, the USWBSI had to cancel its contract with a hotel.

4. What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

An undergraduate student was hired to work in the USWBSI's Headquarter branch office at Michigan State University assisting with inputting data into the projects/grants web-based database and scanning FHB-related publications for reference database.

Flash & Dash Presentations; 2020 National FHB Forum - Flash & Dash (F&D) Presentations are for graduate students, post-docs and early career professionals. Presenters give a short (5 minute) 'flash and dash' presentation of the work highlighted in their poster prior to their designated poster sessions. This exercise gives these early career scientists presentation experience and increases the visibility of their research work by attracting interest to their poster during the poster session. Eighteen individuals participated in the Flash & Dash session.

5. How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

Information is disseminated through the USWBSI's list serves, website, emails, blogs, FHB-alerts, on-line articles, Forum proceedings, extension-based materials and newsletters.

Training of Next Generation Scientists

Instructions: Please answer the following questions as it pertains to the FY20 award period (5/1/20 - 7/31/21). 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 FY20 award period?**

Yes No

If yes, how many? [Click to enter number here.](#)

- 2. Did any graduate students in your research program supported by funding from your USWBSI grant earn their Ph.D. degree during the FY20 award period?**

Yes No

If yes, how many? [Click to enter number here.](#)

- 3. Have any post docs who worked for you during the FY20 award period and were supported by funding from your USWBSI grant taken faculty positions with universities?**

Yes No

If yes, how many? [Click to enter number here.](#)

- 4. Have any post docs who worked for you during the FY20 award period and were supported by funding from your USWBSI grant gone on to take positions with private ag-related companies or federal agencies?**

Yes No

If yes, how many? [Click to enter number here.](#)

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Publications, Conference Papers, and Presentations

Instructions: Refer to the PR_Instructions for detailed more instructions for listing publications/presentations about your work that resulted from all of the projects included in the FY20 grant award. Only citations for publications published (submitted or accepted) or presentations presented during the **award period (5/1/20 - 7/31/21)** should be included. If you did not publish/submit or present anything, state 'Nothing to Report' directly above the Journal publications section.

NOTE: Directly below each citation, you **must** indicate the Status (i.e. published, submitted, etc.) and whether acknowledgement of Federal support was indicated in the publication/presentation. See example below for a poster presentation with an abstract:

Winn, Z.J., Acharya, R., Lyerly, J., Brown-Guedira, G., Cowger, C., Griffey, C., Fitzgerald, J., Mason R.E., and Murphy, J.P. (2020, Dec 7-11). Mapping of Fusarium Head Blight Resistance in NC13-20076 Soft Red Winter Wheat. p. 12 In: Canty, S., Hoffstetter, A. and Dill-Macky, R. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 2020 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum*. https://scabusa.org/pdfs/NFHBF20_Proceedings.pdf.

Status: Abstract Published and Poster Presented

Acknowledgement of Federal Support: YES (Abstract and Poster)

Journal publications.

N/A – Not applicable to this project.

Books or other non-periodical, one-time publications.

None

Other publications, conference papers and presentations.

Forum Proceedings:

Canty, S., Hoffstetter, A., and Dill-Macky, R. (Eds.). (2020, Dec 7-11). *Proceedings of the 2020 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum*.

https://scabusa.org/pdfs/NFHBF20_Proceedings.pdf

Status: Published

Acknowledgement of Federal Support: Not applicable for this publication

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Newsletters:

Lilleboe, D., Canty, S. and Dill-Macky, R. (Eds.). Winter 2021. *Fusarium Focus. U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative*. Volume 21, Issue 1.

Status: Published

Acknowledgement of Federal Support: Not applicable for this publication

On-line Articles:

Lilleboe, D. 2020, November. *Fusarium Head Blight in 2020: Minimal to Modest Impact in Most States*. U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative. https://scabusa.org/pdfs/USWBSI-Article_2020_FHB-Summary_11-20.pdf.

Status: Published

Acknowledgement of Federal Support: Not applicable for this publication

NOTE: All Forum Proceedings, Newsletters and On-Line Articles are available in PDF format on the USWBSI's Website: <https://scabusa.org>.