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Research Category: MGMT

Duration of Award: 1 Year

Project Title: Enhanced Deployment of Prediction Models for Fusarium Head Blight.

PROJECT 1 ABSTRACT

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The goal of the disease prediction effort is to provide small grain producers with accurate and timely estimates of disease risk and to help them evaluate the need for chemical or biological control products. While we have already made considerable progress in reaching this goal; additional projects are needed to ensure the continued delivery of these decision tools, and further improve the accuracy, utility, and adoption of these important tools for FHB management. Specific objectives for the coming year include:

1. Continued deployment of the disease prediction models in 24 states including the support of the state commentary tools, and the platform for testing experimental models.
2. Developing procedures for mirrored data sources that will improve the stability of the system and reduce the chance of service interruptions.
3. Developing procedures for near-real time verification of model inputs.
4. Improved capacity of the system to provide station-specific estimates of disease risk by adding independent sources of weather information.

A cooperative team of plant pathologists, meteorologists, and computer information technology specialists will address these objectives. These daily predictions of risk are an important part of the integrated management of FHB and DON. The projects match the goals of the disease management research area committee related to forecast model development, validation of integrated management strategies and enhanced communication with the small grain producers.