

**USDA-ARS/  
U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative  
FY11 Final Performance Report  
July 13, 2012**

**Cover Page**

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<b>Fiscal Year:</b>	FY11
<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>FY11 USDA-ARS Award Amount:</b>	\$ 37,342

**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.	\$ 37,342
	<b>Total ARS Award Amount</b>	<b>\$ 37,342</b>

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Principal Investigator

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Date

\* MGMT – FHB Management  
 FSTU – Food Safety, Toxicology, & Utilization of Mycotoxin-contaminated Grain  
 GDER – Gene Discovery & Engineering Resistance  
 PBG – Pathogen Biology & Genetics  
 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:** *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, and 2009 and annual losses average \$6.5 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 three 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. Third, the prevalent varieties in central Kansas are susceptible to scab. 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 (breeding lines from Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota) *Fusarium* Head Blight Nursery 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-head spray inoculations. Visual disease evaluation methods will be used to rate the percentage spikelets infected 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 accomplishment and its impact (i.e. how is it 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. 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 the 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 Hard Winter Wheat Fusarium Head Blight Testing Nurseries for the hard winter wheat breeding programs of Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. These nurseries provide 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.

### **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). During the past few years, these cultivars have 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 recently 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 and the wheat geneticist has resulted in significant progress to improve the level of resistance to scab in future commercial wheat cultivars. This research has resulted in a germplasm release in 2004 from Kansas State University with resistance to scab derived from *Triticum timopheevii* ssp. *armeniacum*. It normally takes 10-12 years to produce a new 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. Everest occupied only trace acres in Kansas during 2009-2010, 1.1% of the acres in 2010-2011 (about 100,000 acres), but has increased to 8% of the acres during 2011-12 (760,000 acres). Everest is projected to become the leading cultivar in the state of Kansas. This is the first large-scale deployment of a wheat cultivar in Kansas with improved levels of resistance to scab.

**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.**

1. Willyerd, K. T., Li, C., Madden, L. V., Bradley, C. A., Bergstrom G. C., Sweets, L. E., McMullen, M., Ransom, J. K., Grybauskas, A., Osborne, L., Wegulo, S. N., Hershman, D. E., Wise, K., **Bockus, W. W.**, Groth, D., Dill-Mackey, R., Milus, R., Esker, P. D., Waxman, K. D., Adee, E. A., Ebelhar, S. E., Young, B. D., and Paul, P. A. 2012. Efficacy and stability of integrating fungicide and cultivar resistance to manage Fusarium head blight and deoxynivalenol in wheat. *Plant Dis.* 96:957-967.
2. Zhang, X., Bai, G., **Bockus, W.**, Ji, X., and Pan, H. 2012. Quantitative trait loci for Fusarium head blight resistance in U.S. hard winter wheat cultivar Heyne. *Crop Science* 52:1187-1194.
3. **Bockus, W. W.**, De Wolf, E., and Wegulo, S. N. 2012. Effect of fungicide application on Fusarium head blight in eight winter wheat cultivars, 2011. (online) *Plant Disease Management Reports* 6:CF004. DOI:10.1094/PDMR06. The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN.
4. **Bockus, W. W.**, Baenziger, P. S., and Berzonsky, W. 2012. Reaction of Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota winter wheat accessions to Fusarium head blight (FHB), 2011. (online) *Plant Disease Management Reports* 6:CF003. DOI:10.1094/PDMR06. The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN.
5. Appel, J. A., De Wolf, E., **Bockus, W. W.**, and Todd, T. 2011. Preliminary 2011 Kansas Wheat Disease Loss Estimates. *Kansas Cooperative Plant Disease Survey Report*. ([http://www.ksda.gov/includes/document\\_center/plant\\_protection/Plant\\_Disease\\_Reports/2011KSWheatDiseaseLossEstimates.pdf](http://www.ksda.gov/includes/document_center/plant_protection/Plant_Disease_Reports/2011KSWheatDiseaseLossEstimates.pdf))
6. Lingenfelter, J., **Bockus, B.**, DeWolf, E., Fritz, A., Knapp, M., Whitworth, J., Heer, W., Kimball, J., Nelson, R., Maddux, L., Evans, P., Kusel, K., Seaman, C., Martin, T. J., Schlegel, A., Spangler, M., Chen, M., Chen, R., Knopf, J., Miller, R., and Shroyer, J. 2011 Performance Tests. Pages 9-23 in: 2011 Kansas Wheat Seed Book. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service Report of Progress No. 1054. 50 pp.
7. De Wolf, E. D., **Bockus, W. W.**, and Whitworth, J. R. 2011. Wheat Variety Disease and Insect Ratings 2011. Kansas Cooperative Extension Service publication MF-991. 4 pp.
8. Bai, G., Baenziger, P. S., Berzonsky, W., Bernardo, A., St. Amand, P., Zhang, D., Cai, J., Jin, F., Li, T., Yu, J., **Bockus, W.**, and Kold, F. 2011. Using marker-assisted selection to improve Fusarium head blight (FHB) resistance in hard winter wheat. In: Canty, S., Clark, A., Anderson-Scully, A., and Van Sanford, D. (Eds). *Proceedings of the 2011 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (p. 6). East Lansing, MI/Lexington, KY: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
9. Jin, F., Zhang, D., **Bockus, W.**, Baenziger, P. S., and Bai, G. 2011. Fusarium head blight resistance in US hard winter wheat. In: Canty, S., Clark, A., Anderson-Scully, A., and Van Sanford, D. (Eds). *Proceedings of the 2011 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (pp. 30-31). East Lansing, MI/Lexington, KY: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.

10. Peiris, K. H. S., Dong, Y., **Bockus, W. W.**, and Dowell, F. E. 2011. A single kernel near-infrared (SKNIR) technique for comprehensive evaluation of Fusarium head blight (FHB) resistance in wheat germplasm and for evaluation of fungicide treatments for managing FHB in wheat. In: Canty, S., Clark, A., Anderson-Scully, A., and Van Sanford, D. (Eds). Proceedings of the 2011 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum (pp. 43-44). East Lansing, MI/Lexington, KY: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
11. Friebe, B., Cainong, J., Chen, P., **Bockus, W. W.**, and Gill, B. S. 2011. Utilizing alien sources of resistance to Fusarium head blight for wheat improvement. In: Canty, S., Clark, A., Anderson-Scully, A., and Van Sanford, D. (Eds). Proceedings of the 2011 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum (p. 84). East Lansing, MI/Lexington, KY: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
12. **Bockus, W. W.**, Davis, M. A., and De Wolf, E. D. 2011. Effect of seed treatment of scabby seed on plant stands and grain yields of winter wheat. In: Canty, S., Clark, A., Anderson-Scully, A., and Van Sanford, D. (Eds). Proceedings of the 2011 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum (p. 123). East Lansing, MI/Lexington, KY: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
13. Wegulo, S. N., Stevens, J. A., Byamukama, E. Z., Baenziger, P. S., and **Bockus, W. W.** 2011. Effects of winter wheat cultivars and Prosaro<sup>TM</sup> fungicide on FHB and DON. In: Canty, S., Clark, A., Anderson-Scully, A., and Van Sanford, D. (Eds). Proceedings of the 2011 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum (p. 159-160). East Lansing, MI/Lexington, KY: U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative.
14. **Bockus, W. W.** 2011. Update on the Northern Hard Winter Wheat Fusarium Head Blight Nurseries. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project of the National Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative.
15. **Bockus, W. W.** 2011. The interaction of host resistance with fungicides for control of Fusarium head blight. Presentation at Manhattan USDA Brown Bag Lunch.