

OTHER PAPERS

THE U.S. WHEAT AND BARLEY SCAB INITIATIVE WEB SITE.

David Hane^{1*}, Susan Canty², David Hummel¹, David Matthews³,
Gerard Lazo¹, Victoria Carollo¹, Richard Ward⁴,
Olin Anderson¹ and David Van Sanford⁵

¹USDA-ARS-WRRC, 800 Buchanan Street, Albany, CA 94710, USA; ²USWBSI-NFO, Michigan State University, 380 Plant & Soil Sciences Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1325, USA; ³University, Dept. of Plant Breeding, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA; ⁴CIMMYT, Km. 45 Carretera Mexico Veracruz, El Batan, Texcoco, Edo. De Mexico, CCP 56130, MEXICO; and

⁵University of Kentucky, Dept. of Plant & Soil Sciences, 327 Plant Sciences Bldg. Lexington, KY 40546-0312, USA

*Corresponding Author: PH: 510-559-6194; E-mail: dhane@pw.usda.gov

ABSTRACT

The U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) web site (<http://www.scabusa.org>) is an integral part of the USWBSI. The site is an important information resource for all aspects of the Initiative, including Research, News, Forums, Literature, and Contact Information.

The site includes several publicly searchable databases that provide information on all Projects, Grants, Institutions, Documents, Committees, and Contacts associated with the Initiative. This year, several new features have been introduced as part of a goal of continual improvement. These include an online bibliography database (<http://scabusa.org/refbase/>) for *Fusarium* related publications, an RSS news feed (<http://scabusa.org/rss.html>), and a community blog (<http://scabusa.org/wordpress/>) where users can relate the latest news and information as it pertains to the Initiative. The bibliography database is a user supported project. Submissions of papers to be included are encouraged and should be sent to Sue Canty.

Additionally, a beta version of an electronic pre-proposal submission system (EPSS) has been introduced. A content management system named eGroupWare (<http://www.egroupware.org/>) was chosen as the foundation on which to build the electronic pre-proposal submission system. Current features include user defined virtual folders for data storage, sophisticated user rights management, and a customizable portal interface. A web-based file editing software package was developed in-house and incorporated into the eGroupWare package to allow users to collaboratively edit documents required for the electronic pre-proposal submission system. This system's performance is currently being analyzed. After appropriate changes are made, the system will be finalized and available to all those who submit pre-proposals next year.

Future goals are to integrate the USWBSI web site more closely with GrainGenes (<http://wheat.pw.usda.gov>), an online database of molecular and phenotypic information for the Triticeae, and to finalize the interface for a new online calendar of events (<http://scabusa.org/cal.html> and <http://scabusa.org/webcal/month.php>). This poster provides an overview of the USWBSI web site and solicits ideas and suggestions for future improvements to the site.

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