U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative

FHB Tool Talk

Dear Extension, Crop Consultants, and Grower Organizations,

The USWBSI is proud to announce the publishing of the 2025 FHB Disease Impact Update.

This year commentary from 30 state specialists indicated that FHB was problematic for organically produced grains, susceptible planted varieties, and farmers in the Mid-Atlantic states whose crops received rainfall during anthesis.

In regions were FHB was prevalent, the FHB Risk Tool predictions were accurate and, in most cases, farmers were proactive in making timely fungicide applications. Overall, there were few reports of high levels of DON and therefore, grain rejections or dockages were limited.

Click the image below for the full article and see what other farmers and regions experienced this season.



For 2025, Where Conditions Were Favorable for Fusarium Head Blight Development, the FHB Risk Tool Predictions Mitigated Losses

By Dr. Amber Hoffstetter



FHB symptoms on spring wheat, durum, and two-row spring barley in North Dakota. *(Andrew Friskop, photo)*

This season, Fusarium head blight (FHB or scab), caused predominately by the fungus *Fusarium graminearum,* was an issue for organically grown grains, susceptible planted varieties, and farmers in the Mid-Atlantic states whose crops received rainfall during anthesis. In the Mid-Atlantic states, DON levels were reported to be as high as 18 ppm. Most other states reported few instances with FHB, and the disease was not an issue for those who experienced drought conditions. Where FHB was prevalent, the USWBSI FHB Risk Tool predictions were accurate and, in most cases, farmers were proactive in making timely fungicide applications. However, some states reported farmers were still interested in learning more about the benefits of fungicides and proper application timing. In addition, farmers are opting to choose resistant varieties at planting to help aid in managing FHB, however, more communication is still needed on which varieties have resistance.

The U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) reached out to state experts for an assessment of FHB during the 2025 growing season; an overview of each region is presented below.



More FHB Resources for Extension, Crop Consultants, and Grower Organizations.

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