



U.S. Wheat & Barley  
Scab Initiative

## Position Description for Co-Chairs of the USWBSI

The Co-Chairs provide leadership to a consortium of wheat and barley research scientists, producers and industry representatives who together form the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI; <https://scabusa.org>). The mission of the Initiative is to enhance food safety and supply by reducing the impact of Fusarium Head Blight (scab) on wheat and barley. The Initiative's annual budget of approximately \$8.74 million, is managed by USDA-ARS and is part of the ARS National Program for Plant Disease. In fiscal year 2020, USWBSI's recommendations to USDA-ARS were awarded as grants to 150 projects carried out by 93 researchers at 33 land grant universities along with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The two Co-Chairs of the USWBSI represent the research community (currently occupied by Ruth Dill-Macky, University of Minnesota) and the stakeholder groups (currently occupied by Doyle Lentz, grower from Rolla, ND). The Co-Chairs participate in the governance of the Initiative and serve as the principal spokespersons of the Initiative to US wheat and barley growers, the milling, malting and brewing industries, members of Congress and legislative staff, and the general public.

The Co-Chairs lead both the Executive Committee (EC) and the Steering Committee (SC) of the Initiative. The EC serves to review the research priorities and the annual call for pre-proposals, and aids in the development of the process for the evaluation of pre-proposals/funding requests by review panels. The EC also reviews all of the pre-proposals and develops the annual research plan and budget for the SC's consideration, aids in developing the agenda for the Annual Scab Forum, and approves workshops to facilitate collaboration among scientists within the Initiative. The Steering Committee comprises broad representation of the research and stakeholder communities. The SC provides direction and guidance to the Initiative and is responsible for the review and approval of: research priorities of the Initiative, the process by which the Initiative requests research pre-proposals, and the Initiative's annual research plan and budget recommendations.

### Volunteer Responsibilities & Expectations:

As research Co-Chair, Ruth Dill-Macky is also the Executive Director of the Networking and Facilitation Office (NFO). The NFO acts as the central office of the USWBSI providing administrative support and facilitating communication for the Co-Chairs, Executive and Steering Committees and other USWBSI committees, and also acts as liaison with the USDA-ARS administration. The NFO handles the distribution of information within the USWBSI, including the call for pre-proposals and dissemination of materials for review, facilitates the annual

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reporting of progress by researchers, and plans various administrative and research-focused meetings, including the annual Forum.

The stakeholder Co-Chair works in consultation with the research Co-Chair in carrying out the directives and activities of the USWBSI. The stakeholder Co-Chair is expected to participate in periodic conference calls with the NFO and the EC, attend EC and SC meetings (1-2 per/year), and the Annual Forum in December. This individual is expected to chair the SC meetings and play an active role in Forum activities, from introducing speakers to facilitating discussion of breakout sessions. In addition, the stakeholder Co-Chair will work with the EC to review research pre-proposals and reconcile them with available funding to make recommendations to the SC for final approval. Time commitment for the stakeholder Co-Chair could average 5 hours per month during most of the year with additional commitments during spring SC/EC meetings and the Forum. Travel to visit ARS and legislators on behalf of the USWBSI would represent additional hours depending on the availability of the stakeholder Co-Chair. Participation in special discipline or commodity-based workshops may be required, but this is typically in response to specific situations and is thus not predictable. The heaviest time commitment usually occurs during the lead up to the December Forum with conference calls, emails and the review of funding requests.

Qualifications/requirements for the USWBSI Stakeholder Co-Chair position:

- 1) Active or retired producer of wheat and/or barley
- 2) Involved with grower organizations
- 3) General understanding of grain diseases and production practices
- 4) General understanding of Roberts Rules of Order
- 5) Be an advocate for the USWBSI
- 6) Commit to at least a 4 year term

The individual selected to fill the position of Stakeholder Co-Chair for the USWBSI must be an advocate for the USWBSI to the USDA and Congress, to the various stakeholder groups, and to the general public. The Co-Chair plays a vital role in the governance of the USWBSI and aids the Initiative in maintaining a strong focus on research efforts that will bring about solutions quickly. As noted above, the Co-Chair should expect to attend the annual Scab Forum in December, the SC meetings in April/May (every other year) and December (the December meeting is held in conjunction with the Forum), the EC meetings in April/May (every year) and December (also held in conjunction with the Forum), to evaluate pre-proposals, meet with researchers and stakeholder groups as needed, and participate in periodic conference calls with the NFO staff and EC members.

For more information on the Stakeholder Co-Chair position or the Initiative, please contact Ruth Dill Macky or Sue Canty (contact info in footer).

**Nomination Deadline:** October 23, 2020

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