



U.S. Wheat & Barley  
Scab Initiative

# Meeting Minutes

## USWBSI Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 1, 2021

1-4 PM EDT / 12-3 PM CDT / 11AM-2 PM MDT

ZOOM

**Co-Chairs:** Richard Magnusson (Private Grower, MN) and Ruth Dill-Macky (Univ. of Minnesota)

**Members Present:** Thomas Baldwin (North Dakota State Univ.), Carl Bradley (Univ. of Kentucky), Doug Buhler (Michigan State Univ., NCRA rep), Austin Case (AB InBev – Global Barley Research), Alyssa Collins (Pennsylvania State Univ.), Frankie Crutcher (Montana State Univ.), Erick De Wolf (Kansas State Univ.), Pravin Gautam (BASF, NE), Andrew Green (North Dakota State Univ.), Alexis Freier-Johnson (Dakota Growers Pasta Co.), Steve Harrison (Louisiana State Univ. Ag. Center), Scott Heisel (American Malting Barley Assoc.), Rich Horsley (North Dakota State Univ.), Dustin Johnsrud (ND Wheat Commission), Brian Jorgenson (Private Grower, SD), Dave Kendra (BASF, NC), Louis Kuster (U.S. Durum Growers Assoc., ND), Esten Mason (Colorado State Univ.), Grant Mehring (Bayer CropScience/WestBred, ND), Gary Muehlbauer (Univ. of Minnesota), Dale Nellor (North American Millers' Assoc.), David W. Ragsdale (Texas A&M SAAESD rep), Paul Sadosky (Molson Coors Beverage Co.), Carl Schwinke (Siemer Milling Co., IL), Jyoti Shah (Univ. North Texas), Sunish Sehgal (South Dakota State Univ.), Kevin Smith (Univ. of Minnesota), Clay Sneller (Ohio State Univ.), Kevin Thorsness (Bayer CropScience, ND), Martha Vaughan (USDA-ARS, IL), Jake Westlin (National Assoc. of Wheat Growers), Steven Xu (USDA-ARS, ND), Xiang Yin (Rahr Corporation, MN), Shaobin Zhong (North Dakota State Univ.), and Marv Zutz (Minnesota Barley Council)

**Members not present:** Andrew Green (North Dakota State Univ.; joined at 1:15 p.m. CT and remained on thru the breakouts), Bryan Jorgenson (Private Grower, SD; joined at 1:15 p.m. CT), and Mark Seastrand (North Dakota Barley Council)

**USDA-ARS PI for the USWBSI:** José Costa (National Program Leader for Crop Production and Protection)

**NFO Staff:** Sue Canty (USWBSI-NFO, MI), Michelle Bjerkness (USWBSI-NFO, MN), and Amber Hoffstetter (USWBSI-NFO, OH)

### 1. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Richard Magnusson, Grower Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves verbally and entered their names and organizations into the chat.

### 2. Review and Approval of Agenda and Minutes from 12/11/20 SC Meeting

Richard Magnusson asked if there were any new items to be added to the agenda. The SC members approved the agenda as it was with no additions or objections.

Richard asked if there were any amendments to the minutes from the 12/11/20 meeting. Jake Westlin indicated that the CSFP is the CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program). Also, a typo on page 4 in Richard's name was noted. The NFO corrected the minutes, and the SC members approved the minutes with the amendments/corrections.

### 3. FY22 Federal Funding and USDA-ARS Updates

- Scott Heisel, Vice President and Technical Director, American Malting Barley Association (Reporting for National Barley Improvement Committee) (*Addendum 1*)

- Jake Westlin, Government Relations Representative, National Association of Wheat Growers (Reporting for National Wheat Improvement Committee) (*Addendum 2*)
- Jose Costa – USDA-ARS, National Program Leader for Crop Production and Protection (*Addendum 3*)

#### 4. Updates from Executive Committee-NFO Headquarters

- Ruth Dill-Macky, Researcher Co-Chair: Updates from the Executive Committee

Ruth informed the SC that Sue Canty would be retiring from the USWBSI at the end of June. Michelle Bjerckness is the new incoming Director of Operations. Sue and Michelle have been working together for the past few weeks. Sue plans to work part-time from July thru December. The NFO's office will be moving to the University of Minnesota, however the email and phone number will remain the same.

Ruth provided an update to the SC on the Transformational Science (TSCI) funding. The EC withheld some of the Initiative's funding for this special focus in an effort to attract new projects and scientists to the Initiative. The NFO sent out a call for proposals in February. Fifteen pre-proposals were submitted. The EC reviewed these proposals and approved six of them for funding, allocating a total of ~\$538,000 in the six TSCI grants. Ruth provided a short overview of some of the topics these projects will address.

- Sue Canty, NFO Director of Operations: Update on FY21 Y2 Funding Applications

The NFO has processed the FY21 Year2 funding applications and submitted 95% of them to the USDA-ARS. A few recent changes have resulted from PIs changing positions and locations, and the NFO is facilitating these requests to transfer projects to new PIs or to move projects to new locations/organizations. In order to finalize the NFO application, the TSCI funding along with the few remaining Y2 applications need to be processed. None of the FY21 awards have been distributed yet by the USDA-ARS Grants & Agreements Management Branch (GAMB), but the office is working on processing them. Sue hopes PIs will start to see their amendments put into place for their FY21 funding agreements at their Universities in mid-to-late April.

#### 5. FY22 Request for Pre-Proposals, Review Process, Working Caps

- Presenters: Michelle Bjerckness, NFO Incoming Director of Operations, Sue Canty, and Ruth Dill-Macky
  - FY22 RFP – Discuss plans for new funding cycle in regard to USDA's policy regarding Agreements (*Addendum 4*)

Michelle outlined, for the SC's input, a new potential model for USWBSI proposals and grants moving forward. Upon the request of ARS, the goal behind modifying the proposal process is to reduce the number of executed agreements and streamline processing requirements for the USDA-ARS, University Sponsored Programs Offices, PIs and the NFO. The new model incorporates the option to establish 4-year agreements, with funding awarded annually, to reduce the number of new agreements.

A projection of the new model impact on new agreements/amendments counts compared to the current estimates was reviewed. Assuming 70% of the PIs opted to choose 4-year agreements, there should be a shift in the number of new grant agreements and amendments processed annually from peak every other year to a more distributed approach.

Ruth reminded the SC that the USDA-ARS is requesting a change in the current process. This proposal is a method to help address their concerns, but it is also important to have the SC's input on what has been outlined to ensure the best approach is put in place. The VDHR research chairs had raised some questions and concerns at recent RA workshops. Clay Sneller asked if Year 2 documents would essentially become Year 3 and Year 4 documents. Ruth said yes, PIs would need to submit

documentation to the USWBSI for Years 3 and 4 (these documents would include an annual progress report, updated goals and a projected timeline and budget for all years remaining, and the budget details and justification for the coming year). Clay also wondered how 2-year projects and 4-year projects would work under one grant agreement due to funding coming all at once. Ruth said this is a potential issue, and PIs with these cases might need a second agreement. Stephen Harrison asked how new PIs could join coordinated projects that last four years if the PI enters in the middle of the project. Ruth said we could implement 2-year grant agreements for these cases. Stephen also asked about Working Caps and how new people join if the working caps are set for 4-years. Ruth said this is something that needs more thought and consideration. Sue thought there would be flexibility from other areas that remain in 2-year agreements to increase funding in other areas. Also, the EC could use its holdback to fund new PIs in this situation.

**Action Item:** The Executive Committee will further discuss the issues raised by the SC, particularly in relation to the Working Caps and out-of-cap flexibility and the timing for establishing new projects, to make sure options are in place to address these concerns before the RFP is issued.

- Overview of FY22 Review Process/RFP Deadlines

Sue Canty went over the review process for FY22. It will remain the same. However, the EC is asking the CP committees to add an external reviewer (i.e., any member who does not receive funding from the CP) to the process if there is no external member currently serving. The timetable for FY22 is still tentative. **Note:** one change under consideration for FY22 is to have PIs submit all their pre-proposal materials thru the EPS system, including the CPs.

- Process for Setting Working Caps/Funding Priorities

- **Small Discussion Groups:** The purpose of the small discussion groups was to review the current system for setting Working Caps and brainstorm new ideas for setting these caps as well as identify high priority areas for funding.
- **Small Discussion Follow-up:** Groups reported a summary of their discussions (see below).

**FHB Management (MGMT):** The group likes the democratic aspect of the current system. The members would like this to remain a part of the new system. More funding would allow the members to form a cooperative project to research *Fusarium* spp. and fungicide sensitivity in collaboration with PBG.

**Food Safety and Toxicology (FST):** The group thinks switching to a 4-year funding cycle will reduce budget variabilities. If there is additional funding, toxicology research and DON samples are priorities for the group. If there is a funding reduction, the labs cannot analyze as many samples per year.

**Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER):** The group indicated the importance of some type of oversight and external review process but did not have specific new ideas for setting up the working caps. If there is additional funding, labeling of mutant populations and a centralized transformation lab are group priorities.

**Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG):** The group members are not familiar with the current process for setting the working caps and need more clarification. The members thought the working cap for PBG was not as fair as it should be. If there is additional funding, toxin testing is a priority. If there is a funding reduction, the group recommends cutting travel costs and continuing to hold virtual meetings.

Barley Coordinated Project (BAR-CP): The members think voting on the working caps is reasonably fair. However, a more informed voting system is needed, as the current discussion boards are not utilized, and there is not a lot of informed voting. A better mechanism for information sharing is needed. If there is additional funding, increasing the number of breeding lines tested is a group priority. The group would like to maintain the opportunities for one-off funding increases to purchase equipment. If there is a funding reduction, the committee will continue to rank the priority of projects based on the draft letters of intent submitted.

Durum Coordinated Project (DUR-CP): The breakout group believes the current system for setting working caps is fair but needs to be tweaked, no specific suggestions were made. The group thinks there should be a way to eliminate duplicate projects across research areas and suggested an increased level of review of the pre-proposals. If there is additional funding, the members believe both Barley and Durum are areas of priority. If there is a funding reduction, the committee will continue to support the long-term projects.

Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project (HWW-CP): This group is unfamiliar with how the working caps are determined. The members thought acreage and scab incidence was currently factored into the overall funding distribution and if not suggested finding a way to accommodate these factors as part of the process. The system should remain a democratic process. If there is an increase in funding, doubled haploids are a priority for the group. If there is funding reduction, the committee will reduce all projects equally.

Variety Development and Host Resistance – Spring Wheat (VDHR-SPR): The members thought the current working cap system was fair and did not have any ideas for improving it. If there are increases in funding, the CP committee members would prioritize allocations in alignment with current efforts.

Variety Development and Host Resistance – Northern and Southern Winter Wheat (VDHR-NWW and VDHR-SWW): The group was interested in how the starting point for the working caps was set. Reevaluating the base levels could be helpful as well as what the impact of different PIs joining and leaving have had. As an alternative, they suggested that more outside evaluation be considered. They were also supportive of increasing the EC's out-of-cap funds to add flexibility to the system. If there is an increase in funding, the committees would like to invest in adopting additional breeding methodologies to improve resistance. If there was a funding reduction, the groups will reduce the budgets of all projects.

Overall, the various groups all shared general satisfaction with the democratic intent of the system but do see several opportunities for enhancement to ensure facilitating discussion. Additional education on how the system works would be helpful. Several good ideas were brought forward for EC consideration.

**Action Item**: All designated note takers for each breakout session should send their notes to the NFO for full review by April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Item**: The Executive Committee will be reviewing the feedback from the breakout groups and determining ideas for implementation or further consideration.

## 6. Discuss Plan for Finalizing Research Priorities for FY22

Sue explained the process for finalizing the Research Priorities for FY22. The NFO sent the current Research Priorities to the research chairs. The chairs can use this version and work with committees to mark up proposed changes. The edited versions should be shared with the PIs in their area for additional input. The research areas and the VDHR-CPs have until April 29<sup>th</sup> to submit their updated priorities to the NFO. The EC

will have until May 11<sup>th</sup> to approve the updates. The NFO will then distribute the approved changes to the Barley, Durum, and Hard Winter Wheat CPs to update their research priorities. Final revisions are due to the NFO no later than May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Item:** The NFO will distribute the process and timeline for finalizing the research priorities to the research leaders.

## 7. Update on 2021 National FHB Forum

Ruth Dill-Macky gave an update on the 2021 Forum. The Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza is contracted for 2021 and current plans are to hold an in-person Forum. The Forum will look different than previous years, given anticipated COVID impacts and the need to be cognizant of the attendee's comfort levels. The NFO and the EC will poll past/potential attendees on their likelihood of attending and comfort with this year's conference plans. The EC anticipates offering a hybrid model, but an estimate is needed for onsite participation to determine if additional negotiations of the hotel contract are needed. The Initiative will be polling the FHB community twice in the coming months to see if the level of comfort changes over the coming months.

The pandemic has had an economic impact on many organizations' budgets. Scott Heisel mentioned organizations might not have funding for travel. Ruth informed the SC that all the PIs had built their travel expenses into their USWBSI-funded project budgets. Jyoti Shah said some Universities have restrictions on travel and no one knows when these might be lifted. These are all important issues to consider for planning the 2021 Forum.

**Action Item:** The NFO will poll the Scab community on their likelihood to attend an in-person Forum and work with the EC to negotiate the hotel contract if needed.

## 8. New Items

No new items were added to the agenda.

**Meeting Adjourn at 2:32 p.m. CT**

**Minutes Recorded and Submitted by:**



Amber L. Hoffstetter, Research Technical Specialist  
USWBSI's Networking & Facilitation Office



# American Malting Barley Association, Inc.

740 North Plankinton Avenue, Suite 830 / Milwaukee, WI 53203 / (414) 272-4640 / Fax: (414) 272-4631 / <http://www.AMBAinc.org>

March 25, 2021 USWBSI EC / April 1, 2021 SC

## **FY2022 Federal Budget Update**

Scott Heisel

### Budget & Budget Agreement

There is not If another agreement is not reached before FY2022, deep cuts (on the order of 10%) to defense and nondefense spending. Few if any in Congress desire this to happen, but as yet, we have no budget agreement for the next fiscal year. Once an agreement is reached, congressional committees will be given their budgets and will determine whether there is any funding available for new projects or increases to existing ones.

As with most new administrations, the releasing of a President's budget is delayed. It may be a month or more before the full budget is released. While Congress has the final say in funding, the President's budget provides a framework and contains important language as to priorities that will be addressed within Federal agencies.

### National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC)

#### FY2022 Priorities

- Continued funding for the US Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative at FY2021 levels or \$15 Million.
- Continued funding for the Small grain Germplasm Initiative at FY2021 levels or \$3.5 Million.
- A FY2022 programmatic funding increase of \$4.2 Million for the Barley Pest Initiative BPI to bring it to full funding of \$5.2 million.
  - Funded at \$1.0 Million in FY2021
  - 80% ARS / 20% grants split to address insect, viral, bacterial, and fungal pests of barley.
  - Funding to programs in 15 states.
- FY2022 funding of \$15 million for ARS Big Data Initiative. Currently this initiative is supported through a 1% assessment on all grants and it is expected that a \$15 million appropriation will eliminate this assessment.
- Funding of ARS FY2022 mandatory pay costs.
- FY2022 funding > FY 2020 for Hatch Act, Smith Lever, AFRI, ERS & NASS

### Lobbying & Education Efforts

The appropriations process has been delayed this year with no budget agreement or president's budget to this point. Many congressional offices have pushed back their deadlines for appropriation requests. NBIC efforts have been focused on key congressional offices and is conducting these efforts primarily via E-mail with limited voice or video calls. Initial requests to congressional offices for support of NBIC goals has been followed up with communications from constituents representing growers, researchers and industry.

### Friends of ARS

The Friends of ARS is a group of organizations that supports agricultural research. For FY2022, they are supporting a 5% increase for the ARS, \$102.6 million for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, plus \$15 million for the Big Data Initiative (see attached letter). AMBA, NBIC and the North American Millers' Association participate in the Friend of ARS.

March 10, 2021

Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chairwoman, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry  
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Leahy, Baldwin, Lowey and Bishop, and Ranking Members Shelby, Hoeven, Granger and Fortenberry:

The undersigned members of the Friends of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Coalition thank you for your support in (FY) 2021. As you consider the future needs for programs and facilities within the subcommittee's jurisdiction, we ask that you increase support for the ARS. **The Coalition recommends \$1.720 billion in top-line funding for ARS in FY 2022, which represents a 5% increase or \$76.35 million over the FY 2021 enacted level for the four national program areas, flat funding for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility of \$102.6 million, and \$15 million directed to the new Big Data Initiative.**

The ARS is USDA's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to conduct research, develop solutions to agricultural problems of the highest national priority, and provide information to the public across four national program areas: nutrition, food safety and quality; animal production and protection; crop production and protection; and natural resources and sustainable agricultural systems.



ARS laboratories serve as regional engines for research innovation and contribute to a vibrant network of national facilities that advance knowledge and expand capability for the country. The newest addition, NBAF, is the nation's only bio-safety level (BSL) 4 laboratory focused on livestock health and zoonotic disease, a critical component of the United States' agro-security infrastructure. **As ARS assumes ownership and operational authority of NBAF, it is vitally important that the agency's account is increased to reflect the expanded responsibility of this \$1.25 billion facility without cannibalizing ARS's four existing national programs.** We are grateful for the subcommittee's support of NBAF to-date and the \$102.6 million requested for FY 2022 will continue to support the standup activities underway, including hiring scientific personnel and workforce training. Long-term funding for NBAF's operational costs and science program is critical to ensuring that the US remains capable of identifying and responding to emerging threats to livestock and discovering new paths to mitigate or eliminate animal diseases.

In addition to countless research contributions, ARS research projects provide more than 8,000 jobs and are directly contributing to local economies. Additionally, ARS workforce enables groundbreaking discoveries that contribute to the stability and security of the American economy and agricultural industry. ARS labs and research facilities support collaboration opportunities that incorporate the broader research community at many of our nation's universities, allowing ARS to directly and indirectly impact every part of the United States agricultural system.

**It is vital that the ARS is funded at \$1.720 billion for FY 2022 to extend the nation's scientific knowledge in the four national program of nutrition, animal production/protection, crop production/protection, and natural resources, while ensuring additional funding is directed to new activities, such as NBAF and the Big Data Initiative, to ensure that it has adequate resources for operations, maintenance, research and workforce.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Malting Barley Association  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Veterinary Medical Organization  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Crop Science Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
FASS  
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals – Multistate Initiative  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

National Barley Improvement Committee  
North American Millers' Association  
Soil Science Society of America  
The Breakthrough Institute  
Tufts University  
US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee  
Weed Science Society of America

**To: USWBSI Steering Committee**  
**From: Jake Westlin, National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG)**  
**Date: April 1, 2021**  
**Re: National Wheat Improvement Committee Report**

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Below is an update on the National Wheat Improvement Committee's fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations requests and recent virtual fly-in.

### **NAWG/NWIC Appropriations Requests**

At the virtual NWIC annual meeting in December 2020, the group elected to maintain the same funding requests for FY 2022 as in FY 2021, with some minor adjustments. The top priority funding request from NWIC is maintaining full funding for the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) at \$15,000,000. The second funding request being sought is creating a new Wheat Resiliency Initiative (WRI), which would use \$5,660,000 to allow researchers to build capacity to address underfunded and emerging challenges to wheat production throughout the United States. Specifically, the WRI request asks Congress to include language to establish the WRI under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agriculture Research Service (ARS) to address challenges related to wheat rusts, wheat stem sawfly, hessian fly, and bacterial leaf streak. The WRI funding request has been increased from \$5,000,000 in FY 2021.

NAWG has been submitting appropriations requests on behalf of NWIC with all member offices who sit on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees in the House and Senate. Additionally, NAWG plans to include these requests in written testimony with the subcommittees.

### **NWIC Virtual Fly-in**

On March 22 and 23, NWIC hosted its annual fly-in virtually this year, where it had 15 meetings with USDA-ARS and Capitol Hill offices.

On March 22, NWIC met with senior USDA-ARS staff to discuss an array of topics, which included getting an update on the budget/transition process and NWIC outlining its requests and how it would envision the WRI operating within the agency. Additionally, several other topics were touched on, including the Big Data Initiative.

Over the course of two days, we met with 14 hill offices, which included appropriators and agriculture committee members. As part of our visits, we also met majority and minority staff on the Senate Ag Approps Subcommittee to go over our appropriations requests. We had a lot of positive feedback on both of our funding requests. Most offices were familiar with the USWBSI and will request full funding for the USWBSI in their appropriations request to the ag approps subcommittee. Additionally, we had positive feedback on the WRI, and several offices expressed interest in submitting our funding request to the ag approps subcommittee.

## **USDA-ARS report**

### **José Costa, National Program Leader for Grain Crops**

**4/1/21**

USDA-ARS has a FY21 budget. This budget includes a pay-cost increase across the board.

1% ARS assessment for Big Data. This is being imposed on **all** research projects.

Currently implementing the Barley Pest Initiative \$1M increase:

#### USDA-ARS RESEARCH LOCATIONS (\$720K)

Aberdeen, Idaho Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research Unit

Ames, Iowa Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Unit

Ft. Detrick, Maryland Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit

St. Paul, Minnesota Cereal Disease Laboratory

Raleigh, North Carolina Plant Science Research Unit

Fargo, North Dakota Cereal Crops Research Unit

Stillwater, Oklahoma Wheat, Peanut, and Other Field Crops Research Unit

Pullman, Washington Wheat Health, Genetics, and Quality Research Unit

#### UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LOCATIONS (\$200K in NACAs)

Cornell University

Ohio State University

Virginia Tech

Oregon State University

Montana State University

North Dakota State University

University of California - Davis

University of Idaho

Washington State University

University of Minnesota

Additionally, \$1M is being implemented for the Wheat Genetics Resource Center in Manhattan, KS. This funding will be split 50/50 between the ARS Manhattan unit and the WGRC.

ARS has continued to hire personnel this year, however, there were as many employees retiring or leaving.

The ARS Administrator Dr. Chavonda Jacobs Young is now Acting Undersecretary for REE (replacing Scott Hutchins). She is being replaced by Dr. Simon Liu as Acting ARS Administrator (he continues as Associate Administrator).

Dr. Steve Kappes is still the Associate Administrator for National Programs.

The vacancy for the Deputy Administrator (DA) of Crop Production and Protection has not been filled since Dr. Maureen Whalen retired in 2018. Series of Acting DAs so far, currently filled by Deepak Bhatnagar but will be refilled this year.

## **COVID update**

ARS has allowed maximum telework since late March, office work continues normally but field and especially lab operations have been affected. Planting and harvesting of research plots have continued.

## **USDA-ARS research positions that affect wheat and barley:**

1. Lincoln, NE. (Bob Graybosch's wheat genetics former position). Hired Jeff Boehm.
2. Pullman, WA (new position on wheat Falling Number research). Hired Ashley Cannon. Will hire a bioinformatics position at Pullman.
3. Raleigh, NC. Dave Marshall (wheat and barley breeder/geneticist and research leader) will be retiring in 2021. We plan to refill this position. He continues implementing the funding increase for the Doubled Haploid facility.
4. CDL: 2 possible retirements in 2021, we plan to refill their positions. Still trying to hire a new pathologist there to work on scab mostly on barley.
5. Suba Subramanyam has been hired in West Lafayette to work on Hessian Fly (she is replacing Christie Williams and Richard Shukle).
6. Katie Jordan was hired in Manhattan as a Cat. 4 scientist in bioinformatics.

## Proposed USWBSI Modified Proposal Process

**Goal:** Reduce the number of executed agreements and streamline corresponding processing requirements for the USDA-ARS, USWBSI-NFO, University Sponsored Programs Offices and PIs.

**Rationale:** Development of new agreements are arduous with multiple steps of approval required, whereas amendments to executed agreements can be implemented with fewer requirements. Additionally, PIs rarely spend out their awards due to unforeseen circumstances requiring no-cost one-year extensions, typically 50-60% carry multiple agreements during overlap year with duplicate reporting required in that year.

**Strategy:** Modify the proposal process model to incorporate optional extended agreement term of 4 years, to be awarded annually through amendments rather than starting new agreements.

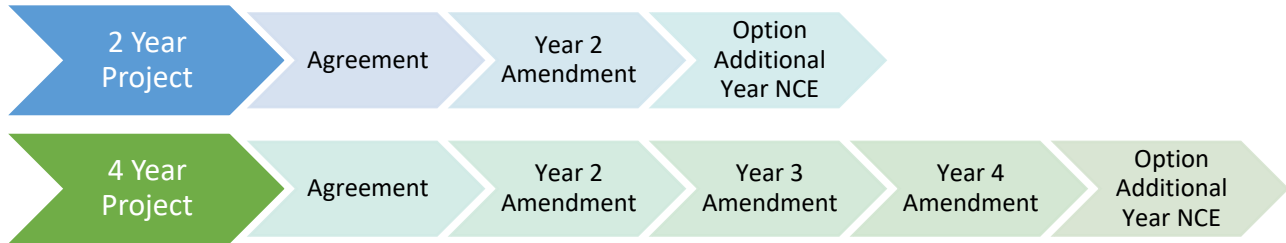
### Assumptions:

- USWBSI has always awarded projects annually and will continue to do so
- Significant number of current USWBSI projects have long-term duration when considering the overall focus and intention of project
- Proposals can be described and given broad grant and project titles to meet longer-term agreement requirements with annual objective modifications if necessary
- USDA-ARS GAMB now enforcing 2-year RFP = 2-year agreement
- Reduction of executed agreements needed overall, target of under 95 yearly (compared to ~130)

### Model Modification Comparison

Current	New Approach
<b>RFP Timing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Proposal RFP issued every 2 years</li> </ul>	<b>RFP Timing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Proposal RFP still issued every 2 years</li> </ul>
<b>Project Timeline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFP outlined for 2-year project</li> <li>• Project Summary (ARS submission doc) and Project description/plan of work specifics detailed for 2 years (USWBSI)</li> </ul>	<b>Project Timeline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option to submit for 2 year or 4 year project, with encouragement for 4 year term where applicable</li> <li>• 4 year proposals need to have grant and project titles that are broad in scope, allowing for changes in project objectives annually</li> <li>• Project Summary with timeline table summarizing activities for duration of project and project description/plan of work detailed for first year</li> </ul>
<b>Project Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full budget detail provided for 2 years, option to amend for year 2</li> </ul>	<b>Project Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Summary with estimated total budget calculation for duration of project by year, and full budget detail provided for first year; option to amend annually</li> </ul>
<b>Renewal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done at 2 year point</li> <li>• Annual Performance Report on prior year award</li> <li>• Progress Report on current award period</li> <li>• Updated Project Summary for year 2</li> <li>• Changes to plan of work/project description (objectives) from original proposal</li> <li>• Detailed budget required with budget plan for next year funds</li> </ul>	<b>Renewal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done at 2 year point, if applicable also at 3 year point and 4 year point</li> <li>• Annual Performance Report on prior year award</li> <li>• Progress Report on current award period</li> <li>• Updated Project Summary for remaining years</li> <li>• Changes to plan of work/project description (objectives) from original proposal</li> <li>• Detailed budget required with budget plan for next year funds</li> </ul>
<b>Agreement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on RFP, ARS limits formal agreements to 2 years, with 1 year no-cost extension</li> </ul>	<b>Agreement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on RFP, ARS to establish agreements for either 2 years or 4 years, with 1 year no-cost extension</li> </ul>

**Project Cycle Comparison**



**Projection of New Model Impact on New Agreement/Amendment Counts Compared to Current Estimates**

	FY21	FY22 (RFP)	FY23	FY24 (RFP)	FY25	FY26 (RFP)
Totals Current <b>2-year Only Model</b>	5 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 89	84 new agreements <u>47</u> NCEs 131	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	84 new agreements <u>50</u> NCEs 134	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	84 new agreements <u>50</u> NCEs 134
Totals with <b>addition of 4-year option</b>	5 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 89	84 new agreements <u>47</u> NCEs 131	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	24 new agreements 60 amendments <u>12</u> NCEs 96	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	84 new agreements <u>42</u> NCEs 126

Assumes: 70% of PIs opt for 4-year agreement and # of projects in pipeline is at same level, ~60-50% extend with NCE  
 NCE = No-Cost Extension for one-year

Note: These counts do not include the ~16 ARS PI projects that require a proposal, but do not need an agreement  
 FY21 Extra 5 new agreements are for one-year TSCI program

## Addendum 4

### Projection of New Model Impact on Agreements Compared to Amendments with 4-Year Option Added

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
RFP21	84 – 2 yr (2) 5 – TSCI (1 year)	42 – 2 yr (NCE) 5 – TSCI (NCE)				
RFP22		New RFP 60 – 4 yr (1) 24 – 2 yr (1)	60 – 4 yr (2) 24 – 2 yr (2)	60 – 4 yr (3) 12 – 2 yr (NCE)	60 – 4 yr (4)	30 – 4 yr (NCE)
RFP23			No RFP			
RFP24				New RFP 24 – 2 yr (1)	24 – 2 yr (2)	12 – 2 yr (NCE)
RFP25					No RFP	
RFP26						New RFP 60 – 4 yr (1) 24 – 2 yr (1)
Totals	5 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 89	84 new agreements <u>47</u> amendments 131	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	24 new agreements <u>72</u> amendments 96	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	84 new agreements <u>42</u> amendments 126

### Current Model Agreements Compared to Amendments with 2-Year Cycle

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
RFP21	84 – 2 yr (2) 5 – TSCI (1 year)	42 – 2 yr (NCE) 5 – TSCI (NCE)				
RFP22		New RFP 84 – 2 yr (1)	84 – 2 yr (2)	~50 – 2 yr (NCE)		
RFP23			No RFP			
RFP24				New RFP 84 – 2 yr (1)	84 – 2 yr (2)	50 – 2 yr (NCE)
RFP25					No RFP	
RFP26						New RFP 84 – 2 yr (1)
Totals	5 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 89	84 new agreements <u>47</u> amendments 131	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	84 new agreements <u>50</u> amendments 134	0 new agreements <u>84</u> amendments 84	84 new agreements <u>50</u> amendments 134