



May 25, 2016

Attention: USDA CROP MANAGEMENT GRANT

RE: Improving integrated pest management of wireworms in cereal crops.

Members of the Review Committee:

The Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) and the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) strongly support the proposed project based on the economic hardship experienced by Idaho and northwestern regional cereal growers during the last five years.

The organochlorine chemical, Lindane, one of the most effective controls for wireworm, was banned in 2004. Since that time Idaho wheat producers have seen a steady increase in numbers of the pest in soils and damage to crops. Some producers dropped winter wheat from their crop rotation and some took land out of production. Growers surmise the residual effects from Lindane have dissipated in the soils, allowing the wireworm populations to return to high levels. Approved neonicotinoid chemical seed treatments for cereals don't kill wireworms, they become sick and stop feeding – not only is this not a very effective control method for growers, but it also increases the potential for the pest to develop chemical resistant populations.

The serious economic impact prompted IGPA to ask the Idaho Department of Agriculture to file for an emergency use permit (Section 18) for Fipronil as a seed treatment on wheat. Fipronil is used effectively in potato production to control wireworm applied as a liquid and shanked into the ground. Cereal production is limited to application of the material as a seed treatment which is only effective for 6 weeks immediately after planting. But at the present time growers see it as the only option available.

Northwest growers need effective and sustainable management tools to mitigate crop losses from wireworms. Regional dryland farmers have few crop choices adapted to minimal rain fall and long distance markets. Cereals are the main crop for many growers throughout the Northwest.

Idaho grain producers have identified wireworm as the most serious production problem they face because there is **no effective control**. The preliminary data supporting this grant request was supported with grower assessment dollars.

The IWC and IGPA support this research as a strategic priority in the northwest for cereal producers. Our policy is to leverage grower assessment dollars on preliminary research, providing data supporting applications for national grant opportunities. We hope to partner with USDA in support of developing wireworm control measures for northwest cereal producers.

Sincerely,

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Blaine Jacobson
Executive Director
Idaho Wheat Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Satterlee", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stacey Satterlee
Executive Director
Idaho Grain Producers Association