

The National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC) represents the U.S. barley community of growers, researchers, processors, users, and allied industries. Each year, the NBIC sets a list of legislative priorities that outlines their goals to support a robust and competitive malting barley industry.

PRIORITY ASK

Barley Pest Initiative: funding increase for FY23 to reach \$5.3 M annually

- The Barley Pest Initiative (BPI) strengthens research capacity to **address over twenty major insect, viral, bacterial, and fungal threats to the production of high-quality barley**, which improves returns to growers and meets the needs of domestic and export end-users.
- The BPI is directed to **develop management and genetic resistance strategies** to mitigate or eliminate the economic impact of these major barley pests, keeping barley a viable option for U.S. growers, and enhancing value-added job generating enterprises in the U.S.
- The BPI is a **multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional collaborative research project** of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) intramural (~80%) and extramural university (~20%) programs, involving scientists in fourteen states.

NBIC thanks Congress for the initial FY21 appropriation of \$1M for BPI and tentative increases proposed in FY22.

ASK

USWBSI & SGGI: maintain FY21 funding levels

- Maintain funding for the **U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI)** at \$15M, as authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill; supporting work in 30+ states to address scab (*Fusarium head blight*), which is the most serious disease threat facing barley and wheat production throughout most of the U.S.
- Maintain funding for the **Small Grains Genomic Initiative (SGGI)** at \$3.44M; bringing researchers the tools and data needed to accelerate research and development of public-sector barley varieties.

NBIC thanks Congress for continued support through appropriations for the USWBSI and SGGI.

ASK

USDA-ARS, NASS & ERS: incremental funding increases that cover mandatory pay costs and the rising cost of data collection

Mandatory federal pay raises increase operating costs at ARS research facilities, reducing funding for research and the ability to address stakeholder needs, unless covered in the salary and expenses budget. Furthermore, to ensure critical data is made available to inform decisions made by producers and to influence legislation and policy decisions, incremental funding increases through appropriations for operating costs must occur for these agencies to meet their mission and help enhance the national agricultural economy.

ASK

USDA-NIFA: incremental funding increases for NIFA Hatch Act & Smith-Lever

NIFA Hatch Act & Smith-Lever Formula Grants provide critical support to applied scientists, including crop breeders, and extension personnel at state universities, for practical research and programs of critical importance to farmers, end-users, and consumer. Such work is not currently funded by existing competitive grant programs that focus on basic research. NBIC also supports additional funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) if increased funding is not at the expense of ARS or important NIFA programs (initiatives and grants).

ASK

Passage of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act of 2021

We encourage Congress to add additional funds through the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act and the Continuing Emergency Support for Restaurants Act to ensure all small businesses have access to funds. Small and independent breweries have a broad impact on local agriculture, manufacturing and retail. Without additional funding, hundreds of thousands of small hospitality businesses that qualify for funds through the RRF will not receive the relief they applied for and be forced to shut their doors.

We thank Congress for making the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform permanent.