

**Meta-Analysis of the Effects of QoI and DMI Fungicide Combinations on Fusarium Head
Blight and Deoxynivalenol in Wheat**

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Accepted for publication xx xxxxxx xxxx

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Abstract

Paul, P. A., Bradley, C. A., Madden, L. V., Dalla Lana, F., Bergstrom, G. C., Dill-Macky, R.,
Esker, P. D., Wise, K. A., McMullen, M., Grybauskas, A., Kirk, W. W., Milus, E., and Ruden,

K. 2018. Meta-analysis of the effects of QoI and DMI fungicide combinations on Fusarium head blight and deoxynivalenol in wheat. *Plant Dis.* XX:XX-XX.

Field trials were conducted in 17 U.S. states to evaluate the effects of Quinone outside inhibitor (QoI) and Demethylation inhibitor (DMI) fungicide programs on Fusarium head blight index (IND) and deoxynivalenol (DON) toxin in wheat. Four DMI-only treatments applied at Feekes 10.5.1; five QoI-only treatments applied between Feekes 9 or Feekes 10.5; three QoI+DMI mixtures applied at Feekes 10.5; and three treatments consisting of a QoI at Feekes 9 followed by a DMI at Feekes 10.5.1 were evaluated. Network meta-analytical models were fitted to log-transformed mean IND and DON data and estimated contrasts of log means were used to obtain estimates of mean percent controls relative to the non-treated check as measures of efficacy. Results from the meta-analyses were also used to assess the risk of DON increase in future trials. DMIs at Feekes 10.5.1 were the most effective programs against IND and DON and the least likely to increase DON in future trials. QoI-only programs increased mean DON over the non-treated checks and were the most likely to do so in future trials, particularly when applied at Feekes 10.5. The effects of QoI+DMI combinations depended on the active ingredients and whether the two were applied as a mixture at heading or sequentially. Following a Feekes 9 QoI application with a Feekes 10.5.1 application of a DMI reduced the negative effect of the QoI on DON, but was not sufficient to achieve the efficacy of the Feekes 10.5.1 DMI-only treatments. Our results suggest that one must be prudent when using QoI treatments under moderate to high risk of FHB, particularly where the QoI is used without an effective DMI applied in combination or in sequence.

Fusarium head blight (FHB; also known as scab) is a major disease of wheat that has caused major economic losses in several regions of the United States and throughout the world

(McMullen et al., 1997; McMullen et al., 2012). Although several species of fungi may cause FHB, *Fusarium graminearum* is predominant in North America (Dill-Macky, 2010). Nganje et al. (2004) estimated that the total economic impact of FHB on small grain crops grown in the Northern Great Plains and Central U.S. from 1998 to 2000 was approximately \$2.7 billion. While losses from reductions in grain yield due to FHB do occur (Paul and Madden 2010; Salgado et al. 2015), losses associated with reductions in grain quality are considered more devastating. These include low test weight, high levels of *Fusarium* damaged kernels, and contamination of grain with mycotoxins, especially deoxynivalenol (DON) and related trichothecenes produced by *F. graminearum* and other *Fusarium* spp. (Dill-Macky, 2010; Shaner, 2003). Grain lots with test weight below and percent *Fusarium* damaged kernels and DON concentration above grain quality thresholds often receive price discounts or are rejected at grain elevators (McMullen et al. 2012; Salgado et al. 2014).

Practices used to manage FHB and DON include rotation with non-host crops and tillage (Dill-Macky 2010; Dill-Macky and Jones 2000), the use of moderately resistant cultivars (McMullen et al. 2012), and application of foliar fungicides at or shortly after anthesis (D'Angelo et al. 2014). Demethylation inhibitor (DMI) fungicides (Fungicide Resistance Action Committee [FRAC] group 3 [Anonymous 2018]) have been reported to be efficacious against FHB and DON (Magan et al. 2002; Pirgozliev et al. 2002), and among the DMIs commercially available for use on wheat in the U.S., metconazole (Caramba; BASF Corp., Research Triangle Park, NC), prothioconazole (Proline; Bayer CropScience, Research Triangle Park, NC), and prothioconazole + tebuconazole (Prosaro; Bayer CropScience, Research Triangle Park, NC) are more efficacious than tebuconazole (Folicur; Bayer CropScience, Research Triangle Park, NC) and propiconazole (Tilt; Syngenta Crop Protection Inc., Greensboro, NC) (Paul et al, 2008).

1 However, the greatest and most consistent levels of FHB and DON concentration reductions are
2 often achieved when multiple management strategies are integrated (Blandino et al. 2012;
3 McMullen et al. 2008; Willyerd et al. 2012).

4 Unlike DMIs, quinone outside inhibitor (QoI) fungicides (FRAC group 11 [Anonymous
5 2018]) are generally not suggested for FHB and DON control in the U.S. In addition to being
6 relatively less efficacious than DMIs against the disease (Magan et al. 2002; Pirgozliev et al.
7 2002), some QoIs have been reported to increase DON in wheat grain, especially when applied
8 close to anthesis (Ellner 2005; Zhang et al. 2009). However, there is conflicting information in
9 the literature regarding DON response to QoIs (Edwards et al. 2001; Pirgozliev et al. 2002;
10 Simpson et al. 2001). For instance, Simpson et al. (2001) observed greater DON:*F. culmorum*
11 biomass (DNA) ratios in azoxystrobin treated plots, than in plots treated with other fungicides,
12 and concluded that this fungicide likely stimulated toxin production. Zhang et al. (2012) came to
13 a similar conclusion about the effects of azoxystrobin on DON. Contrastingly, Pirgozliev et al.
14 (2002) reported that azoxystrobin significantly reduced FHB and DON relative to a non-treated
15 check and observed no evidence to support this fungicide increasing DON in harvested grain.
16 Edwards et al. (2001) hypothesized that fungicides affected the FHB/DON relationship by
17 altering the amount of trichothecene-producing *Fusarium* biomass in the grain rather than
18 changing the rate of toxin synthesis.

19 Most of the published studies on the effects of QoI fungicides on DON have focused on
20 azoxystrobin. There are fewer reports of associations between other QoIs or QoI+DMI
21 combinations and the accumulation of this toxin in harvested grain. In addition to azoxystrobin
22 (Quadris; Syngenta Crop Protection Inc., Greensboro, NC), other QoIs such as pyraclostrobin
23 (Headline; BASF Corporation, Research Triangle Park, NC), picoxystrobin (Aproach; DuPont,

Wilmington, DE), and fluoxastrobin (Evito; Arysta LifeScience, Cary, NC), as well as QoI+DMI premixes such as prothioconazole+trifloxystrobin (Stratego YLD; Bayer CropScience, Research Triangle Park, NC), propiconazole+azoxystrobin (Quilt Xcel; Syngenta Crop Protection Inc., Greensboro, NC), and metconazole+pyraclostrobin (TwinLine; BASF Corporation, Research Triangle Park, NC) are widely used on wheat in the U.S., with efficacy against important diseases such as powdery mildew, Septoria leaf blight, Stagonospora leaf and glume blotch, and rust diseases (Marroni et al. 2006; Sylvester et al. 2018; Willyerd et al. 2015). Without a clear understanding of the mechanisms involved in DON response to QoIs and because the reported effects of azoxystrobin vary among studies, one cannot say with certainty that all QoI-based fungicide programs are associated with increases in DON contamination of harvested grain.

In addition to disease control, many of the aforementioned QoIs and QoI+DMI premixes are widely used by growers of field crops to increase grain yield and promote physiological changes that improve plant health. Results from bioassays and studies under controlled conditions showed that some QoIs induce physiological and developmental changes in wheat (Grossman et al. 1999; Grossman and Retzlaff 1997; Nason et al. 2007; Wu and Tiedemann 2001) that are believed to translate into greater stress tolerance and yields in the field. Paul et al. (2011) reported that several QoI-based fungicides resulted in a positive yield response in hybrid field maize, and estimated that the probability of obtaining a yield increase, great enough to offset the fungicide cost, ranged from 1 to 45% at low disease levels (< 5% on the ear leaf). Willyerd et al. (2015) reported that fungicide programs that were not effective against leaf blotch diseases of wheat still had more than a 60% chance of resulting in an increase in mean grain yield over the non-treated check. The possibility of a yield benefit will continue to be an

1 incentive for producers to apply QoIs and other fungicides in field crops, particularly if grain
2 prices are high and inexpensive (generic, off-patent) fungicides are used.

3 No comprehensive large-scale studies have been done to investigate the effects of QoI
4 active ingredients and QoI+DMI combinations on FHB, DON, grain yield, and test weight in
5 wheat. Data from years of uniform fungicide trials (UFTs) conducted through the U.S. Wheat
6 and Barley Scab Initiative were previously utilized for quantitative synthesis of the effects of
7 DMI fungicides on FHB and DON (Paul et al. 2007, Paul et al. 2008), and grain yield and test
8 weight (Paul et al. 2010), but no such analyses have been done for QoIs in wheat. In fact, after a
9 few years of UFTs, QoIs were removed from testing once they were determined to be less
10 effective than DMIs against FHB and evidence of their association with increased DON in grain
11 was recognized. While QoIs are not recommended for application at anthesis for FHB and DON
12 suppression, they continue to be applied from green-up or tillering (Feekes 4-5) to heading
13 (Feekes 10.5) to manage other diseases and for the plant health potential. Consequently,
14 questions remain regarding the effects of pre-anthesis applications of QoI and QoI+DMI
15 premixes on DON. One such question relates to whether combining a DMI with a QoI will
16 counteract any potential negative effects QoI-only treatments may have on DON.

17 To address some of these questions, QoI-based fungicides were reintroduced into the
18 UFTs and evaluated across multiple states and wheat market classes from 2008 to 2013. This
19 generated a large body of data that was used in this investigation. These data were combined
20 with those from previous UFTs, and network meta-analyses (Madden et al. 2016) performed to:
21 1) quantify the effects of QoI and QoI+DMI fungicides applied at different growth stages on
22 FHB, DON, yield and test weight, relative to a reference set of DMI-only treatments (industry
23 standards for FHB management) and a non-treated check; 2) determine whether the application

of premixes of QoIs and DMIs at anthesis, or sequential applications of a QoI followed by a DMI, counteracted any potential DON increase associated with the application of a QoI alone; and 3) estimate the risk of DON increases following the application of QoIs with and without DMIs.

Materials and Methods

Database for meta-analysis. A dataset consisting of 292 uniform fungicide trials (UFTs), supported by the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative and conducted from 1995 to 2013, was used for this investigation. Subsets of these trials have been used previously to investigate the effects of DMI fungicides applied at anthesis on FHB and DON (through 2005), and grain yield and test weight (through 2007) (Paul et al. 2007, 2008, 2010). A detailed description of the UFTs (plot dimensions, method of fungicide application, disease assessment etc.) can be found in Paul et al. (2007, 2008). In brief, plots of susceptible cultivars were planted in 17 U.S. soft and hard wheat-producing states (AR, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NY, OH, SD, VA and WI) in a randomized complete block design with 4 to 6 replicate blocks. Plot dimensions varied among trials, ranging in width from 1.5 to 3 m and length from 6 to 10.7 m.

To increase the likelihood of *F. graminearum* infection and FHB development, at least one of the following practices was employed at each location: planting wheat after a *F. graminearum*-susceptible host crop (i.e., corn or wheat); infesting the experimental area with *F. graminearum*-colonized grain spawn; inoculating wheat spikes at anthesis with a spore suspension of *F. graminearum*; and mist-irrigating plots during anthesis and early grain-fill. The combination of colonized grain spawn and mist-irrigation was the most widely employed (Paul

et al. 2007). One or more measures of FHB (incidence, diseased head severity, or index [field severity]), DON contamination of grain, yield, and test weight were quantified as previously described (Paul et al. 2005, 2008, 2010). Index is defined as the mean proportion of diseased spikelets per spike in all spikes assessed while severity is defined as the mean proportion of diseased spikes in symptomatic spikes. Grain yield was adjusted to 13.5% moisture concentration and then converted to kilograms per hectare (kg/ha). Test weight was converted to kilograms per cubic meter (kg/m³). Both conversions were based on a 25-kg bushel weight for wheat.

A subset of 15 treatments, plus a non-treated check, was evaluated in this investigation. These consisted of either a DMI (tebuconazole, metconazole, propiconazole, or prothioconazole), a QoI (fluxastrobin, trifloxystrobin, azoxystrobin or pyraclostrobin), or some combination of the two chemistries applied as a premix, a tank mix, or sequentially (Table 1). All fungicides were applied at label-recommended rates along with a non-ionic surfactant, either at full flag leaf emergence (Feekes 9), boot (Feekes 10), or anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1) (Table 1). Other application parameters such as spray volume (94-197 L ha⁻¹) and equipment varied among trial locations. The total number of trials in which each of the selected treatment was evaluated is listed in Table 1, and the number of years, states, and trials in which a given treatment was evaluated for effect on FHB index, DON, grain yield, and test weight is shown in Table 2.

Data analysis. Similar to what was described in Paul et al. (2008), the effects of fungicides on FHB and DON were assessed based on the magnitude and significance of mean log-transformed response ratios for each treatment relative to a reference treatment or group of treatments. Approximate mean percent control of FHB index (IND) and DON and 95% confidence intervals, were then obtained from the mean log response ratios. A large negative log

response ratio corresponds to a large positive percent control, which is indicative of greater efficacy (Paul et al. 2007, 2008). Percent control is the reduction in IND or DON relative to the check (i.e., the difference between the check and the treatment means, divided by the check mean). Log ratios were used directly for comparing treatments because their statistical properties are better than those of percent control (or for any ratio, in general) (Madden and Paul 2011). For grain yield (YLD) and test weight (TW), mean differences with the check and their 95% confidence intervals were estimated as measure of treatment effects (Paul et al. 2010).

Network meta-analysis. A two-stage multi-treatment meta-analytical approach was used to obtain estimates of treatment effect on IND, DON, grain yield and test weight. In the first stage of the analysis, linear mixed models were fitted, with fungicide treatment as fixed effect and block as random effect. For each trial, IND, DON, YLD, and TW were analyzed separately, and least squares means (LS-Means) were estimated for all treatments. Residual variances were also estimated for each response in each trial and combined with the LS-Means to construct a data matrix for subsequent analysis. In stage two of the analysis, a two-way network meta-analytical model, with trial and treatment as factors, was fitted to the trial-level LS-Means or log-transformed trial-level LS-Means (from the first stage) using the GLIMMIX procedure of SAS (see below). The within-trial ‘sampling variances’ (determined from first-stage analyses) were held fixed in the second-stage network model fitting (see Madden et al. 2016). Least-squares treatment means across all trials were determined with the *lsmeans* statement after the model was fitted. A second-order factor analytic structure was used for the between-trial variance-covariance matrix (model R5 in Madden et al. 2016). More specific details of the modeling approach are presented in Madden et al. (2016), Paul et al. (2008) and Paul et al. (2010).

Log response ratios and mean differences. For IND and DON, the meta-analytical models were fitted to the trial-level log-transformed least squares means; the fixed sampling variance for each log-transformed value was determined as presented on page 1001 of Paul et al. (2008). Mean log response ratios (\bar{L} s) across all trials, together with their standard errors and 95% confidence intervals, were estimated post-model-fitting by way of *lsmestimate* statements in PROC GLIMMIX. Differences between pairs of mean logs are the \bar{L} s, since the log of a ratio is equal to the difference of logs. Contrasts were constructed to estimate \bar{L} for each treatment relative to the non-treated check, relative to a standard set of treatments, and for specific DMI- or QoI-only treatments relative to premixes, tank mixes, or sequential applications of the two chemistries. For instance, \bar{L} values relative to the check were estimated as $\bar{L}^{(C)} = \hat{\mu}_T - \hat{\mu}_C$, where $\hat{\mu}_T$ and $\hat{\mu}_C$ are the estimated mean $\ln(\text{IND})$ or $\ln(\text{DON})$ across trials for a treatment and the non-treated check, respectively. Note that the superscript refers to the reference treatment in the contrast (or ratio). \bar{L} s relative to the standard set of treatments were estimated as $\bar{L}^{(S)} = \hat{\mu}_T - \hat{\mu}_S$, where $\hat{\mu}_S$ is the estimated overall mean $\ln(\text{IND})$ or $\ln(\text{DON})$ across treatments PROT_F10.5.1 (prothioconazole applied at Feekes 10.5.1), TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1 (tebuconazole + prothioconazole applied at Feekes 10.5.1), and METC_F10.5.1 (metconazole applied at Feekes 10.5.1). These three treatments were considered the standard here because they are currently the most efficacious against FHB and DON (Paul et al. 2008).

For grain yield and test weight, the meta-analytical models were fitted to the original (untransformed) trial-level LS-Means from stage one of the analysis; the fixed within-trial ‘sampling variance’ for each treatment was calculated based on the residual mean square, as described on page 161 of Paul et al. (2010). Overall mean differences across trials and their

1 standard errors and 95% confidence intervals were estimated post model fitting as measures of
2 treatment effects relative to the non-treated check ($\bar{D}^{(C)}$) and relative to the standard set of
3 treatments ($\bar{D}^{(S)}$). The *lsmestimate* statement in PROC GLIMMIX was used to obtain estimates
4 of $\bar{D}^{(C)} = \hat{\mu}_T - \hat{\mu}_C$ and $\bar{D}^{(S)} = \hat{\mu}_T - \hat{\mu}_S$, where $\hat{\mu}_C$, $\hat{\mu}_T$, and $\hat{\mu}_S$ are estimated least-squares mean yield or
5 test weight (across trials) for the non-treated check, a treatment, and the standard set of
6 treatments (averaged across treatments PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and
7 METC_F10.5.1), respectively.

8 *Relative responses.* For each treatment, approximate mean percent control (\bar{C}) values and
9 their 95% confidence intervals (CI) were estimated for IND and DON from the $\bar{L}^{(C)}$ values and
10 their 95% CIs as

11
$$\bar{C} = [1 - \exp(\bar{L}^{(C)})] \times 100.$$

12 Similarly, approximate mean percent increase relative to the standard, \bar{S} , was estimated from
13 $\bar{L}^{(S)}$ as

14
$$\bar{S} = [\exp(\bar{L}^{(S)}) - 1] \times 100.$$

15 Additional details are presented in Paul et al. (2008) and Madden and Paul (2011). These back-
16 transformations of means directly give median percentages, but since these statistics are close to
17 the mean percentages, we generally refer to them as the latter. Similar measures of relative
18 response were estimated for pairwise comparisons of DON between selected QoI, DMI, and
19 QoI+DMI treatments to address questions pertaining to whether pre-anthesis QoI-only treatments
20 resulted in greater DON concentrations than the non-treated check, whether QoI+DMI treatments
21 resulted in greater DON concentrations than DMI-only treatments, and whether sequential

applications of a QoI at an early growth stage followed by a DMI-only treatment at anthesis resulted in lower DON concentrations than the early QoI-only treatments. For instance, mean $\ln(\text{DON})$ was compared between the PYRA_F9 (pyraclostrobin at Feekes 9) and PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1 (pyraclostrobin at Feekes 9 followed by metconazole at Feekes 10.5.1; Table 1) treatments.

Prediction and risk analysis. $\bar{L}^{(C)}$ and $\bar{D}^{(C)}$ values were used along with estimates of their respective between-study standard deviation ($\hat{\sigma}^{(C)}$; determined as presented on page 1003 of Paul et al. [2008]) from the meta-analysis to make predictions regarding efficacy and the risk of a given treatment program resulting in greater (or lower) overall mean IND, DON, yield, or test weight than some predetermined value in a new randomly-selected study (done in the similar way to the studies used in this analysis). Specifically, probabilities were estimated that treatments with a significant effect on IND or DON (Table 3) will result in percent control greater than fixed values between 2 and 50% (i.e., probabilities that IND or DON will be reduced relative to the non-treated check by 2 to 50%). For instance, the probability of at least a 50% control ($\bar{C} > 50\%$), which is equivalent to the probability that $\bar{L}^{(C)} < -0.69$, was estimated as

$$p_{50}^{(C)} = \Phi\left(\frac{-0.69 - \bar{L}^{(C)}}{\hat{\sigma}^{(C)}}\right).$$

To assess the risk of increasing DON concentration following the application of QoI-based treatments to FHB affected plots, probabilities were also estimated that treatments with a significant effect on DON (Table 3) will result in 2 and 50% greater mean DON than the non-treated check. For example, a DON increase of at least 25% relative to the check (i.e., probability that \bar{C} is less than -25%), equivalent to the probability that $\bar{L}^{(C)} > 0.223$, was given by

1
$$p_{25}^{(C)} = \Phi\left(\bar{L}^{(C)} - 0.223\right) / \hat{\sigma}^{(C)}.$$

2 Probabilities of yield increases ranging from 50 to 500 kg ha⁻¹ and increases in test weight
3 between 2 and 50 kg/m³ relative to the non-treated check were also estimated. For instance, the
4 probability of a 250 kg ha⁻¹ increase in yield and a 20 kg/m³ increase in test weight were
5 estimated as

6
$$p_{250}^{(C)} = \Phi\left(\bar{D}^{(C)} - 250\right) / \hat{\sigma}^{(C)}$$

7 and

8
$$p_{12}^{(C)} = \Phi\left(\bar{D}^{(C)} - 20\right) / \hat{\sigma}^{(C)},$$

9 respectively. In all cases, $\Phi(\bullet)$ is the cumulative standard-normal function (Paul et al. 2008,
10 2010).

11
12 **Results**

13 **Mean FHB index, DON, grain yield and test weight.** Figure 1 shows the distributions
14 of least squares means for FHB index (IND), DON, grain yield and test weight across trials for
15 each of the 15 tested fungicide treatments and the non-treated check. As expected, for all four
16 responses, treatment means varied among trials, as indicated by the size of the boxes and spread
17 of the data points around the overall means (broken lines within the boxes in Fig. 1). For IND
18 (Fig. 1A) and DON (Fig. 1B), the distributions were right-skewed, with the majority of the
19 values between 0 and 25% for IND and 0 and 10 ppm for DON. The interquartile ranges (IQR)
20 (difference between the 25th and 75th percentiles of the data, i.e., the difference between the
21 upper and lower edges of the boxes) for both measures of FHB varied considerably among
22 treatments, with those consisting of a Feekes 10.5.1 (anthesis) application of a DMI fungicide or

a Feekes 9 application of a QoI followed by an anthesis application of a DMI generally having narrower IQRs (indicative of relatively less variable responses among trials) than QoI-only treatments or premixes of the two chemistries (Fig. 1A and B). The skewness of the IND and DON means across trials is further support for the use of log-transformation of the within-trial treatment means (Schabenberger and Pierce 2002), although the transformation was primarily chosen to directly determine log response ratios (Madden and Paul 2011).

The distributions of mean grain yield (Fig. 1C) and test weight (Fig. 1D) were generally more symmetrical than those of mean IND and DON, with the majority of yield values between 2.5 and 5.5 MT ha⁻¹ and test weight values between 6.5 and 7.5 kg/m³. Trends in terms of differences in the IQRs among treatment subgroups (QoIs, DMIs or QoI+DMI) were less clear-cut for yield and test weight than they were for IND and DON (Fig. 1C and D). However, there was still some evidence of greater variability (wider IQR) in mean yield for treatments that consisted of a premix of a DMI and a QoI than those consisting of a QoI- or DMI-only application or sequential applications of the two chemistries.

Log response ratio and percent control of FHB index and DON relative to the non-treated check. Based on results from the meta-analysis, the estimated effect sizes ($\bar{L}^{(C)}$) were negative and significantly different from zero for IND for all treatments that included a DMI fungicide application at anthesis ($P \leq 0.05$), regardless of whether they consisted of the DMI alone or applied sequentially following a QoI (Table 3). The $\bar{L}^{(C)}$ values for those treatments ranged from -0.74 to -0.38, which corresponded to overall mean percent control of IND relative to the non-treated check (\bar{C}) between 31.2 and 52.2% (Table 3). The two greatest percent controls were for METC_F10.5.1 (metconazole at anthesis) and TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1

(tebuconazole + prothioconazole at anthesis). $\bar{L}^{(C)}$ was also negative for all but one pre-anthesis QoI treatments applied alone (AZOX_F10.5; azoxystrobin at heading). However, the effect sizes for pre-anthesis treatments were only significantly different from zero for PYRA_F10 (pyraclostrobin at boot), PYRA_F10.5 (pyraclostrobin at heading), PYRA+METC_F10.5 (pyraclostrobin + metconazole at heading), and TRIF+PROT_F10.5 (trifloxystrobin + prothioconazole at heading), with \bar{C} values (11.2 to 21.8%) that were considerably lower than those observed for treatments that included an anthesis DMI application (Table 3).

The application of a DMI fungicide at anthesis or a QoI fungicide early followed by a DMI at anthesis also reduced DON relative to the non-treated check (Table 3). The estimated $\bar{L}^{(C)}$ values were negative, ranging from -0.55 to -0.10, and significantly different from zero ($P < 0.05$) for all but one of the treatments that included an anthesis application (PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1). The largest percent controls were for a single application at anthesis for three different DMIs, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1 (as well as the standard, the average of the three). The statistically significant treatments with an anthesis DMI application resulted in DON reductions ranging from 20.1 to 45.5%. Contrary to what was observed for IND, the log-response ratios (effect sizes) for DON were positive for all, and significantly different from zero for three of the five pre-anthesis QoI-only treatments, and for one of the three QoI+DMI premixed treatments (Table 3). Positive \bar{L} s correspond to negative percent control (\bar{C}), meaning an *increase* in mean DON relative to the check. For the statistically significant treatments, the corresponding DON *increases* relative to the non-treated check were 15.0, 15.3, 16.1, and 17.8% for AZOX+PROP_F10.5, PYRA_F10, AZOX_F10.5, and

PYRA_F10.5, respectively (Table 3). The earliest tested QoI treatment, PYRA_F9, had a marginal effect on DON ($P = 0.06$), with a 5.9% increase relative to the non-treated check.

Contrasts were constructed to determine whether a Feekes 9 application of the QoI PYRA (PYRA_F9) followed by an anthesis application of a DMI (TEBU_F10.5.1, METC_F10.5.1 or TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1) resulted in greater mean DON than an anthesis-only application of the same DMI (Table 4). The treatment that consisted of PYRA_F9 followed by METC_F10.5.1 had significantly ($P < 0.05$) greater mean DON than METC_F10.5.1 ($\bar{C} = -24\%$, i.e., 24% more), but those consisting of PYRA_F9 followed by TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1 or TEBU_F10.5.1 resulted in numerically ($\bar{C} = -14\%$ to -13%) but not significantly ($P > 0.08$) greater DON than TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1 or TEBU_F10.5.1, respectively. Sequential application treatments (PYRA_F9 followed by METC_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, or TEBU_F10.5.1) resulted in significantly lower mean DON than the Feekes 9 QoI-only treatment (PYRA_F9) (\bar{C} values of 32.6, 34.3, and 14.2%, respectively; Table 4).

Log response ratio and percent change in FHB index and DON relative to the standard. Least squares means for $\ln(\text{IND})$ and $\ln(\text{DON})$ averaged across TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, PROT_F10.5.1, or METC_F10.5.1 were used as the standard reference (a type of positive control; the best overall known group of treatments for IND and DON management) against which other treatments were compared. The estimated effect sizes, $\bar{L}^{(S)}$, were all positive for both IND and DON (Table 5), indicating that all treatments resulted in numerically greater mean disease and toxin concentrations than the standard (i.e., that the percent increase relative to the standard, \bar{S} , was positive). For IND, $\bar{L}^{(S)}$ was significantly different from zero ($P < 0.05$) for all but the treatment that consisted of a Feekes 9 application of PYRA

1 followed by an anthesis application of TEBU+PROT. \bar{S} ranged from 11.3 to 141%, with
2 treatments consisting of pre-anthesis applications of a QoI alone generally having greater \bar{S}
3 values (60.3 to 141%) than those that included an anthesis application of a DMI (11.3 to 40.9%).
4 For DON, $\bar{L}^{(S)}$ values ranged from 0.153 to 0.681, corresponding to increases of 16.6 to 97.6%
5 over the standard. Again, the pre-anthesis QoI-only treatments had the highest \bar{S} values, 77.5 to
6 97.6%, whereas treatments that included a DMI application at anthesis had the lowest, 16.6 to
7 52.3% (Table 5).

8 **Mean difference in yield and test weight relative to the non-treated check.** All
9 fungicide treatments had a significant effect on grain yield, based on effect size from the meta-
10 analysis (Table 6). The overall estimated mean yield difference relative to the non-treated check
11 ($\bar{D}^{(C)}$) was significantly different from zero, and positive, for all treatments ($P < 0.05$). $\bar{D}^{(C)}$
12 ranged from 274 to 432 kg/ha, 180 to 275 kg/ha, 174 to 333 kg/ha, and 435 to 504 kg/ha for DMI
13 fungicides applied alone (at anthesis), QoI fungicides applied alone (before anthesis), QoI+DMI
14 applied as a premix, and QoIs applied sequentially with DMIs, respectively (Table 6). The
15 sequential application treatments had the numerically greatest percent increases.

16 For all fungicide treatments, except PYRA_F10 (pyraclostrobin at boot), AZOX_F10.5
17 (azoxystrobin at heading), and FLUO_F10.5 (fluoxastrobin at heading), the estimated mean
18 difference in test weight relative to the non-treated check ($\bar{D}^{(C)}$) was significantly different from
19 zero ($P < 0.05$) and positive, based on results from the meta-analysis (Table 6). $\bar{D}^{(C)}$ ranged from
20 9.6 to 16.2 kg/m³ for DMI fungicides applied alone at anthesis, compared to 0.9 to 4.1 kg/m³ for
21 QoI fungicides applied alone before anthesis, 4.6 to 10.5 kg/m³ for QoIs applied as a premix with

1 a DMI, and 11.2 to 14.9 kg/m³ for treatments consisting of a QoI applied at Feekes 9 followed by
 2 a DMI at anthesis (Table 6).

3 **Mean difference in yield and test weight relative to the standard.** Relative to the
 4 standard, all treatments, except for those consisting of an anthesis application of a DMI, resulted
 5 in significantly lower mean grain yield (negative effects sizes, $\bar{D}^{(S)}$, with $P < 0.05$; Table 7).
 6 $\bar{D}^{(S)}$ values were positive for treatments with sequential applications and, for this subgroup only,
 7 significantly different from zero when TEBU+PROT was applied after PYRA in the sequence.
 8 For treatments consisting of the application of a QoI alone or QoI+DMI premixes, mean yield
 9 was 132 to 227 kg ha⁻¹ and 75 to 234 kg ha⁻¹ lower, respectively, than the standard. $\bar{D}^{(S)}$ values
 10 were also negative for test weight, and significantly different from zero ($P < 0.05$; Table 7) for all but
 11 one treatment (sequential application of PYRA and TEBU+PROT), indicating lower mean test
 12 weights compared to the standard. QoI-only and QoI+DMI premix treatments again suffered the
 13 greatest reductions in test weight relative to the standard, with $\bar{D}^{(S)}$ values between -14.9 and -5.3
 14 km/m³ (Table 7).

15 **Prediction and risk analysis.** *Fusarium head blight index.* Estimated probabilities of
 16 obtaining a 2 to 50% reduction in mean FHB index (IND) relative to the mean of a non-treated
 17 check in a new randomly selected trial are shown in Fig. 2. Across all projected levels of control,
 18 the standard (used here as a measure of the mean efficacy of PROT_F10.5.1,
 19 TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1) had the highest estimated probabilities, with an
 20 83% chance of resulting in at least 25% control ($p_{25}^{(C)} = 0.83$) and a 54% chance of at least 50%
 21 control ($p_{50}^{(C)} = 0.54$) of IND relative to the non-treated check. In other words, the probability was
 22 0.83 that the percent reduction in IND compared with the control was 25% or more, or the

probability was 0.54 that the percent reduction in IND was 50% or more. All of the tested QoI and QoI+DMI treatments that had a significant effect on FHB index (Table 3) had greater than a 0.50 probability of reducing mean IND by at least 10% in a new trial. PYRA_F10.5 in particular had the highest $p_{10}^{(C)}$ value (0.76) of the QoI-only treatments, and a higher $p_{10}^{(C)}$ value than several of the QoI+DMI combination treatments (Fig. 2). However, pre-anthesis QoI-only and QoI+DMI premixes were the least likely to result in greater than a 25% control of IND in a new trial. Estimated $p_{25}^{(C)}$ values were approximately 0.40 for treatments applied at heading (PYRA_F10.5, TRIF+PROT_F10.5, and PYRA+METC_F10.5) and less than 0.20 for the treatment applied at the boot stage (PYRA_F10), compared to $p_{25}^{(C)}$ values > 0.70 for treatments that included an anthesis application of METC or TEBU+PROT following the early application of PYRA. The sequential QoI+DMI application treatments also had the highest $p_{50}^{(C)}$ values among treatments that included the two chemistries, but none had a $p_{50}^{(C)}$ value as high as the standard (Fig. 2).

Deoxynivalenol. Fig. 3A shows estimated probability values for projected efficacy in terms of percent control relative to the non-treated check, for treatments that had a significant effect on DON (Table 2), whereas Fig. 3B shows probabilities for the risk of greater mean DON contamination following application of these same treatments relative to the mean in the check in a new randomly selected trial. As expected, treatments that consisted of an anthesis application of a DMI fungicide (either alone or following a QoI) had higher probability values than pre-anthesis treatments across all projected levels of control. The standard (used here as a measure of the mean efficacy of PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1) had the highest estimated $p_{25}^{(C)}$ and $p_{50}^{(C)}$ values (0.76 and 0.39, respectively) followed by the sequential

1 QoI+DMI application treatments PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1 ($p_{25}^{(C)} = 0.60$ and $p_{50}^{(C)} = 0.04$) and
 2 PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1 ($p_{25}^{(C)} = 0.59$ and $p_{50}^{(C)} = 0.16$) (Fig. 3A). Pre-anthesis
 3 treatments PYRA_F9, PYRA_F10, PYRA_F10.5, AZOX_F10.5 and AZOX+PROP_F10.5 were
 4 the least likely to result in greater than 25% control of IND; they all had $p_{25}^{(C)}$ values below 0.008
 5 and extremely low $p_{50}^{(C)}$ values (Fig. 3A).

6 The risk of DON increasing relative to the non-treated check by at least 50% was
 7 extremely low for all treatments (Fig. 3B). Probability values for an increase remained low for
 8 the standard and for treatments that included an anthesis application of METC (metconazole) or
 9 TEBU+PROT (tebuconazole + prothioconazole) following a Feekes 9 application of PYRA
 10 (pyraclostrobin); they all had less than a 0.10 probability of increasing DON by 10 or even 25%.
 11 However, the risk of DON increasing by at least 10% was relatively high (probability values
 12 between 0.65 and 0.75) for QoI-only treatments applied at boot or heading (PYRA_F10,
 13 PYRA_F10.5, and AZOX_F10.5) as well as the AZOX+PROP premix applied at heading (Fig.
 14 3B). The Feekes 9 application of PYRA was the least likely of the pre-anthesis QoI-only
 15 treatments to increase DON by at least 10%, but the probability of this eventuality was still 0.40
 16 (which is interpreted as a 40% chance of increasing DON by 10% in a new trial). The probability
 17 of at least a 25% DON increase relative to the check were also fairly high, greater than 0.30, for
 18 PYRA_F10, PYRA_F10.5, AZOX_F10.5, and AZOX+PROP_F10.5, compared to less than 0.02
 19 for the standard (Fig. 3B).

20 *Grain yield and test weight.* For all tested treatments, the probability of a yield increase
 21 relative to the non-treated check decreased as the projected yield response increased (Fig. 4A).
 22 The standard and sequential application treatments had higher estimated probabilities than pre-

1 anthesis QoI+DMI premixes and QoI-only treatments at all projected yield increases. The
2 highest probabilities were observed for treatments consisting of the application of the QoI PYRA
3 at Feekes 9 followed by TEBU, METC or TEBU+PROT at anthesis (Fig. 4A). These were all
4 numerically higher than for the standard. For instance, the probability of a 250 kg ha⁻¹ increase in
5 yield, $p_{250}^{(C)}$, was 0.85 for PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, 0.82 for PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1
6 and 0.80 for PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1, compared to 0.73 for the standard. Among the
7 premixes, $p_{250}^{(C)}$ was highest for PYRA+METC_F10.5 (0.59) whereas PYRA_F10.5 had the
8 highest $p_{250}^{(C)}$ among the QoI-only treatments.

9 Sequentially applied treatments, PYRA at Feekes 9 followed by a DMI at anthesis, also
10 had the highest estimated probabilities for test weight increases between 2 and 50 kg/m³.
11 Probabilities were lowest for QoI-only treatments. For instance, the probability of a 20 kg/m³
12 increase in test weight ($p_{20}^{(C)}$) was less than 0.01 for QoI-only treatments (PYRA_F9, PYRA_F10,
13 PYRA_F10.5, AZOX_F10.5 and FLUO_F10.5), between 0.03 (AZOX+PROT_F10.5) and 0.21
14 (PYRA+METC_F10.5) for premixes, between 0.23 (PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1) and 0.38
15 (PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1) for treatments with a sequential application of a QoI and a
16 DMI, and 0.40 for the standard (Fig. 4B). Unlike with yield, none of the estimated probabilities
17 of increase relative to the check for test weight were numerically greater than the standard.

18
19 **Discussion**

20 A widely accepted recommendation for fungicide use in wheat is to not apply QoI-based
21 products to manage Fusarium head blight (FHB). In other words, if the risk of FHB is high,
22 fungicides containing QoIs such as azoxystrobin, pyraclostrobin, picoxystrobin , fluoxastrobin or

trifloxystrobin are generally not recommended for application at or close to anthesis, the growth stage at which fungicides are sprayed to suppress FHB and DON (McMullen et al. 2012). This is because some QoIs were reported to be associated with increased levels of DON in grain harvested from FHB affected plants (Ellner 2005; Zhang et al. 2009). This recommendation would also apply to premixes of QoI and DMI such as pyraclostrobin + metconazole, trifloxystrobin + prothioconazole, azoxystrobin + propiconazole, but questions remain as to whether it should be expanded to pre-anthesis and even pre-heading applications of QoI-based fungicides. However, one cannot rely on results from individual studies to address these questions and draw conclusions about the effects of QoI, DMI, and QoI+DMI fungicides. This is because of the variability in the magnitude, significance, and in some cases, the direction of fungicide treatment effects on FHB, DON, yield, and test weight among active ingredients, treatment programs, and environments (in the generic sense), partly documented by the non-zero among-study treatment-effect variances in this investigation ($\hat{\sigma}_L^2$, $\hat{\sigma}_D^2$). For all of the questions addressed in this study, there were contrasting reports in the literature, as outlined below. However, access to multiple trials, from several states and years, coupled with a network meta-analysis, allows us to draw general conclusions about population-average effects, and just as importantly, make projections as to expected outcomes for future utilizations of the treatments evaluated here. The latter is done by explicitly utilizing information on the distribution of treatment effects (based on $\hat{\sigma}_L^2$, $\hat{\sigma}_D^2$), either as log response ratios or mean differences, across trials (Madden and Paul 2011; Paul et al 2011). These meta-analytical results are invaluable for guiding the use of these fungicides for FHB and DON management.

Of the treatment programs evaluated in this study, those that included an anthesis application of a DMI fungicide resulted in the greatest reduction of mean FHB index (IND) and

DON. This is consistent with what was expected, as the efficacy of this type of application program against FHB has been well documented (Edwards and Godley 2010; Paul et al. 2007, 2008; Yoshida et al. 2012). The wheat spike is considered most susceptible to infection from anthesis through the first several days of kernel development (Anderson 1948; Del Ponte et al. 2007; Siou et al. 2014). The efficacy of metconazole, tebuconazole + prothioconazole, prothioconazole, and tebuconazole in terms of mean percent control of IND relative to the non-treated check was comparable to that reported by Paul et al. (2007, 2008) from a previous quantitative synthesis of a subset of the data used here. For instance, based on a meta-analysis of data from 73 trials conducted prior to 2006, Paul et al. (2008) reported an overall mean IND control of 51.8% for tebuconazole + prothioconazole. This is almost identical to the 51.5% estimated here from a meta-analysis of 292 trials, 213 of which included tebuconazole + prothioconazole (140 of these trials were conducted between 2008 and 2013). The corresponding differences between percent control estimated in Paul et al. (2008) and in the current analysis for metconazole, prothioconazole and tebuconazole were 2.4%, 1.6% and -0.4%, respectively.

DMI+QoI premix treatments applied at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5) were considerably less effective for IND control than the DMI-only treatments applied at anthesis. For instance, the efficacy of applying pyraclostrobin + metconazole at heading to control IND was 15.7%, compared to 52.2% for metconazole alone applied at anthesis. Several factors could have contributed to this inferior efficacy, including the fact that the rate of the DMI, the a.i. with greater activity against *F. graminearum* (Cromey et al. 2002; Edwards et al. 2001; Pirgozliev et al. 2002), in the premix was lower than in the corresponding DMI-only treatment. Direct comparisons between heading and anthesis applications of the same rate of metconazole (in terms of a.i. per hectare) provide support for this hypothesis. For instance, Paul et al. (*accepted*)

showed that although a Feekes 10.5.1 application of metconazole (90 g a.i. ha⁻¹) was more effective than Feekes 10.5 application of the same fungicide, the difference in efficacy was much smaller than observed in this study for the comparison between treatments consisting of the application of pyraclostrobin + metconazole at heading (7.4% metconazole) and metconazole at anthesis (8.6% metconazole). Application timing relative to when infection occurred could have also contributed to differences in efficacy between the premix of pyraclostrobin + metconazole applied at heading and metconazole alone applied at anthesis, and between trifloxystrobin + prothioconazole applied at heading (17% control of IND) and prothioconazole alone applied at anthesis (50% control of IND). This effect was likely further accentuated by the fact that trials in this study were artificially inoculated at, or close to, anthesis, which was hours or days before the anthesis treatments were applied and several days after heading treatments were applied. This likely put the pre-anthesis treatments at a disadvantage in terms of providing protection against infection, although DMI fungicides are reported to have activity for several days after application (Daniels and Latin 2006). Results from studies in which QoI+DMI mixtures were applied at anthesis reported comparable and even greater efficacy to corresponding DMI-only treatments (Blandino et al. 2006; Dardis and Walsh 2000; Edwards et al. 2001).

As a group, the QoI-only treatments, all of which were applied prior to anthesis, resulted in highly variable responses in terms of mean percent IND reduction. For instance, among the treatments applied at heading, only pyraclostrobin resulted in a significant reduction in mean FHB index relative to the check. Azoxystrobin and fluoxastrobin had numerically contrasting but non-significant effects. These results are at odds with those reported by Pirgozliev et al. (2002) from a single greenhouse study which showed that the application of azoxystrobin at heading reduced FHB severity (equivalent to IND as defined in our study) by 6 to 51% (depending on the

experiment, species of *Fusarium* used for inoculation, and the rate of a.i. applied) relative to the check. As was the case in our study, Chen et al. (2012) observed in one study that pyraclostrobin (25% Cabrio applied at 150 and 225 g a.i./ha) was effective against FHB index in both curative and preventative treatment programs. However, they reported efficacy (> 70% control) that was considerably greater than the mean of 22% observed for pyraclostrobin applied at heading in our study. Caldwell et al. (2017) also reported relatively high levels of FHB control (40-50%) with a single pre-anthesis (flag leaf) application of pyraclostrobin (Headline 250 EC applied at 100 g a.i. ha⁻¹) in both winter and spring wheat.

Interestingly, treatments consisting of an application of pyraclostrobin at Feekes 9 followed by a DMI at anthesis were also consistently less effective in lowering FHB index than the DMI-only anthesis treatments. For instance, the application of metconazole at anthesis led to an estimated 52% control of IND compared to 42% for the treatment consisting of an application of metconazole at anthesis following the application of pyraclostrobin at full flag leaf emergence. Although the sequential application treatments included a full-rate anthesis application of an effective DMI (Paul et al. 2008), applying pyraclostrobin at full flag leaf emergence apparently resulted in these treatments having greater mean FHB index than tebuconazole at anthesis, metconazole at anthesis and tebuconazole + prothioconazole at anthesis. Contrasts between the sequentially applied treatments and the standard (mean of prothioconazole at anthesis, metconazole at anthesis and tebuconazole + prothioconazole at anthesis) determined that on average the former group did indeed have 11 to 41% greater mean IND than the latter group. This likely contributed to them being less effective in terms of mean percent control relative to the check. When applied at anthesis, QoIs are known to be generally less effective for FHB reduction than DMIs (Edwards et al. 2001; Pirgozliev et al. 2002); however, it is unclear how a

1 flag leaf application of pyraclostrobin would influence the overall efficacy of an anthesis
2 application of metconazole, tebuconazole or tebuconazole + prothioconazole as our results
3 indicated. The trends observed here are not consistent with those reported in some other
4 individual studies (Caldwell et al. 2017; Chala et al. 2003). For instance, Caldwell et al. (2017)
5 reported that sequential QoI+DMI treatments (very similar to the three evaluated in our study)
6 resulted in comparable and sometimes greater IND reduction relative to the check than DMI-
7 only treatments applied at anthesis. Our results are however from many trials over a diversity of
8 environments.

9 As was the case with IND, treatments consisting of a single application of a DMI at
10 anthesis also provided the greatest efficacy against DON. However, the magnitude of the
11 treatment effects in terms of estimated mean percent control was somewhat lower than reported
12 in Paul et al. (2008) from a previous meta-analysis of a smaller subset of the data. For
13 tebuconazole + prothioconazole, efficacy was estimated at 41.7% using data from 56 trials
14 conducted from 2002 to 2005 (Paul et al. 2008) compared to 38.2% in this investigation based on
15 data from 153 trials conducted between 2002 and 2013 (including the 56), a difference of -3.5%.
16 Differences in estimated percent control for similar comparisons for metconazole, tebuconazole
17 and prothioconazole were 0.4, -2.8 and -2.6, respectively

18 Treatments that included a Feekes 9 application of pyraclostrobin followed by an anthesis
19 application of metconazole or tebuconazole + prothioconazole also reduced DON concentration
20 relative to the non-treated check, but the efficacy (based on percent control) was 19 and 8%
21 lower, respectively, than the corresponding DMI-only anthesis application of metconazole and
22 tebuconazole + prothioconazole. This could be due in part to the fact that sequentially applied
23 treatments also had greater mean FHB index levels than the comparative DMI-only treatments,

1 and greater FHB is often correlated with greater DON concentrations (Paul et al. 2005, 2006).
2 An increase in mean DON relative to the check, as indicated by a negative percent control (-6%)
3 for the Feekes 9 application of pyraclostrobin, also serves as an explanation for the relatively
4 reduced efficacy of the QoI+DMI sequential treatments. An increase in DON with pyraclostrobin
5 reduces the magnitude of the mean difference between this treatment and the non-treated check,
6 thus resulting in greater log response ratios and lower estimated mean percent controls.
7 Following the Feekes 9 application of pyraclostrobin with an anthesis application of
8 metconazole, tebuconazole + prothioconazole, or tebuconazole did reduce the mean
9 concentration of DON by 14 to 33%, but this was not always sufficient to reduce DON to
10 concentrations comparable to those observed for the anthesis-only DMI treatments. Sequentially
11 applied treatments had between 13 and 24% greater DON than corresponding DMI-only anthesis
12 treatments. Ellner (2005) also reported that, although an anthesis application of tebuconazole
13 helped to reduce the negative effect of a flag leaf application of azoxystrobin on DON, the
14 combination treatment was much less effective than the anthesis-only tebuconazole treatment.

15 Treatments that included a QoI without an anthesis application of metconazole or
16 tebuconazole + prothioconazole did not reduce DON relative to the non-treated check. In fact,
17 several QoI-only treatments resulted in increases in mean DON to concentrations greater than
18 those estimated for the check, as indicated by negative percent control values. A Feekes 10
19 application of pyraclostrobin and Feekes 10.5 applications of pyraclostrobin, azoxystrobin or
20 fluoxastrobin all resulted in increases in mean DON of a similar magnitude (13 to 18%). This
21 suggests that the DON response to a heading application of a QoI was not limited to a single a.i.
22 in this chemical group. The pyraclostrobin results showed that DON concentrations increased
23 following applications at Feekes 9, 10, or 10.5, but the magnitude of the increase was greater at

1 Feekes 10.5 (closest to anthesis) than at Feekes 9 or 10. Interestingly, the Feekes 10.5 and Feekes
 2 10 pyraclostrobin application treatments increased mean DON by 18 and 15%, respectively,
 3 while reducing mean IND by 22 and 11%, respectively, over the non-treated check. The Feekes 9
 4 pyraclostrobin and Feekes 10.5 azoxystrobin treatments increased DON without having a
 5 significant effect on IND. These results are similar to those from studies investigating the
 6 influence of azoxystrobin on associations between DON and fungal biomass (Simpson et al.
 7 2001; Zhang et al. 2012), and suggest that the DON response, at least to some QoI treatments,
 8 was independent of visual symptom development or grain colonization. Increases in DON
 9 without corresponding increases in FHB (or fungal biomass) could be interpreted to mean that
 10 the fungicide stimulated late-season (post disease symptom development) DON production
 11 (Simpson et al. 2001; Zhang et al. 2012).

12 Ellner (2005) and Oldenburg et al. (2001) also reported DON increases with both QoI-
 13 only (azoxystrobin [Amistar]) and QoI+DMI combinations (Kresoxim-methyl+epoxyconazole
 14 [Juwel] and kresoxim-methyl+epoxyconazole+fenpropimorph [Juwel Top]) treatments applied at
 15 different growth stages between stem elongation (Feekes 6) and anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1) in
 16 individual studies. But contrary to what was observed for pyraclostrobin in our study, Ellner
 17 (2005) reported that DON increased to much greater concentrations when Amstar or Juwel Top
 18 were applied at the boot stage (Feekes 10) than at stem elongation or heading (Feekes 10.5). In
 19 addition, only one of the three QoI+DMI premix treatments evaluated in our study was
 20 associated with an increase in mean DON. Differences between our findings and those reported
 21 by others could be attributed to several factors, including fungicide chemistry, environmental
 22 conditions under which treatments were applied, rate of active ingredients, and cultivar
 23 resistance, some of which have been reported previously to be associated with DON responses to

QoI and QoI+DMI combinations (Ellner 2005; Ramirez et al. 2004). For instance, in our study, the application of azoxystrobin + propiconazole at Feekes 10.5, a combination treatment that included one of the least effective DMIs against DON (Paul et al. 2008) was the only premix to increase DON relative to the check. Combinations that included metconazole or prothioconazole, DMIs with greater efficacy against FHB and DON (Paul et al. 2008), did not have a significant effect on DON. This was probably because the QoI and DMI counteracted each other. Reduced rates of the DMI and QoI in the premixes relative to the corresponding QoI- and DMI-only treatments could have also contributed to the observed response. For instance, the application of pyraclostrobin at Feekes 10.5, a treatment with 23.6% of the QoI, increased DON by 18% relative to the check, metconazole at Feekes 10.5.1, with 8.6% of the DMI, reduced DON by 46%, but a premix of the two, with only 12% of the QoI and 7.4% of the DMI, had no effect on DON.

All treatments examined in this study increased grain yield and all but three increased test weight relative to the non-treated check. In general, the greatest yield and test weight increases were observed for treatments with the highest percent control of IND and DON; those that included an anthesis application of a DMI. This was to be expected given that the health of the spike is important for grain yield and quality (Lupton 1972). Fungicide treatments at anthesis may be effective against late-season foliar diseases such as *Stagonospora* leaf and glume blotch and the rusts (Salgado et al. 2017; Sylvester et al. 2018), and as such, likely contributed further to yield and test weight by protecting upper leaves during grain development. The flag leaf is considered more important than glumes of the spike for grain fill (Lupton 1972). QoI-only and QoI+DMI premix treatments that were ineffective or had marginal efficacy against IND still resulted in increased grain yield. These treatments, all applied prior to anthesis, likely

1 contributed to the yield and test weight by reducing damage to the upper leaves by early-season
2 diseases such as powdery mildew and Septoria leaf blotch (Bhathal et al. 2003; Marroni et al.
3 2006; Willyerd et al. 2015). In addition, several of the QoIs have been reported to affect crop
4 physiology and are believed to result in yield increases even in the absence of disease (Grossman
5 et al. 1999; Grossman and Retzlaff 1997; Wu and Tiedemann 2001). The effects of early QoI
6 applications on early-season diseases and crop physiology, coupled with the effects of anthesis
7 DMI treatments on reducing FHB and late-season diseases are likely the reason for treatments
8 consisting of an application of pyraclostrobin at Feekes 9 followed by a DMI at anthesis having
9 the highest overall mean yield increases relative to the check. However, this yield increase was at
10 the cost of two fungicide applications instead of one; a QoI+DMI sequential treatment program
11 cost about twice as much as a DMI- or QoI-only program.

12 Under conditions of moderate-to-high FHB risk, as examined in this multi-location and
13 multi-year investigation, we can conclude:

14 1 – Of the treatments evaluated here, DMIs at anthesis are the most effective against FHB and
15 DON and their use is most likely to result in effective FHB and DON control and least likely to
16 increase DON in future trials.

17 2 - Multiple QoI active ingredients increased DON over the non-treated checks and are the more
18 likely of the two chemistries evaluated here to do so in future trials. This was the case even for
19 those with no or marginal effects on FHB index. The risk of increased DON was greatest for
20 applications made at heading, but there was some evidence that applications of pyraclostrobin at
21 boot or full flag leaf emergence growth stages may also be of concern in terms of increasing
22 DON concentrations in the grain.

3 - The effects of the QoI+DMI premixes on DON depended on the specific QoI and DMI a.i. in the premix. An effective DMI, such as metconazole and prothioconazole, reduced the negative effect of the QoI on DON as well as the probability of a DON increase in future QoI+DMI treatment applications.

4 – Following a Feekes 9 application of pyraclostrobin with a subsequent anthesis application of an effective DMI helped reduce the negative effect of the QoI on DON, but was not sufficient to completely offset this effect and achieve the efficacy of the anthesis-only DMI treatments. In fact, the Feekes 9 pyraclostrobin treatment appeared to reduce the efficacy of the DMI anthesis treatment in terms of DON control, although sequential treatments that include metconazole or tebuconazole + prothioconazole are less likely to increase DON than QoI-only treatments in future trials.

5- Anthesis-only DMI and sequential QoI+DMI treatments resulted in the greatest mean yield and test weight increases. The sequential application of two fungicides increased yield, relative to the DMI-at-anthesis-only treatments, although this was done at the cost of two applications.

Our results suggest that one must be prudent when using QoI-based fungicide programs when the risk of FHB is moderate to high, particularly where a QoI is used without an effective DMI such as metconazole and prothioconazole applied in combination or in sequence. The fact that DON contamination is a food safety concern that negative affects the market value of wheat is well known (McMullen et al. 2007, 2012). So, until such time that the mechanisms behind DON increase in response to QoI-based fungicide treatments are following understood and strategies for preventing this from occurring are developed, we will continue to advice against the use of this class of fungicides under conditions favorable (wet, humid) for FHB. However, completely restricting the use of these products is not advisable as they have an important role in

1 minimizing losses due to other economically important foliar diseases of wheat. Even if they are
2 effective, DMIs should not be the only fungicides applied at all growth stages for early- and late-
3 season disease management; this is not a good fungicide resistance management strategy.
4 Concerns regarding elevating DON concentrations and possible fungicide resistance underscore
5 the importance of not relying on fungicides alone for disease management. For instance, planting
6 a cultivar that is moderately resistant to FHB into a tilled field previously planted with a crop
7 that is a non-host to the species of *Fusarium* that incite FHB would reduce the risk of FHB,
8 likely making early- and mid-season QoI-based treatments less of a concern from a DON risk
9 standpoint. Similarly, planting a cultivar with resistance to early and mid-season foliar diseases
10 would likely reduce the need for any pre-anthesis fungicide application, including QoIs, and
11 consequently reduce concerns regarding the effect of QoIs on DON if conditions become
12 favorable for FHB later in the season.

14 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

15 This is a cooperative project with the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative (Agreements # 59-
16 0206-4-018 [The Ohio State University], 59-0206-4-006 [Cornell University], 59-0206-4-042
17 [Purdue University], 59-0206-4-016 [The University of Minnesota]). Any opinions, findings,
18 conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do
19 not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Department of Agriculture. Salaries and
20 research support for P.A. Paul, L.V. Madden and F. D. DaSilva were provided by state and
21 federal funds to the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Special thanks to W.
22 Bardall, M. Wallhead, and the Snyder farm crew for assisting with the establishment and
23 maintenance of plots in Wooster, OH.

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Table 1. Demethylation inhibitor (D) and quinone outside (Q) inhibitor fungicide treatments evaluated for their effects on Fusarium head blight, deoxynivalenol concentration, grain yield, and test weight in wheat^a

Treatment	N ^b	Growth stage ^c				Product (active ingredient), rate and application timing ^d
		9	10	10.5	10.5.1	
TEBU_F10.5.1	249				D	Folicur 3.6 F (38.7% tebuconazole), 292 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5.1 (anthesis)
PROT_F10.5.1	109				D	Proline 480 SC (41% prothioconazole), 365 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5.1
TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	213				D	Prosaro 421 SC (19% tebuconazole + 19% prothioconazole), 475 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5.1
METC_F10.5.1	214				D	Caramba (8.6% metconazole), 987-1,023 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5.1
PYRA_F9	61	Q				Headline (23.6% pyraclostrobin), 438 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 9 (full flag leaf emergence)
PYRA_F10	35		Q			Headline (23.6% pyraclostrobin), 438 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10 (boot)
PYRA_F10.5	50			Q		Headline (23.6% pyraclostrobin), 438 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5 (full head emergence)
AZOX_F10.5	17			Q		Quadris (22.9% azoxystrobin), 438-453 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5
FLUO_F10.5	12			Q		Evito 480 SC (40.3% fluoxastrobin), 292 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5
PYRA+METC_F10.5	18			Q,D		Twinline (12% pyraclostrobin + 7.4% metconazole), 658 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5
AZOX+PROP_F10.5	19			Q,D		Quilt Xcel (7% azoxystrobin + 11.7% propiconazole), 767 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5
TRIF+PROT_F10.5	19			Q,D		Stratego YLD (32.3% trifloxystrobin + 10.8% prothioconazole), 292 ml at Feekes 10.5
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1	28	Q			D	Headline, 438 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 9 followed by Caramba, 1,023 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5.1
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	17	Q			D	Headline, 438 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 9 followed by Prosaro 421, 475 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5.1
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1	13	Q			D	Headline, 438 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 9 followed by Folicur 3.6 F, 292 ml ha ⁻¹ at Feekes 10.5.1

^aEach treatment was evaluated in at least five trials in at least three U.S. states in one or more years between 1995 and 2013. All treatments were applied with a nonionic surfactant and at a spray volume ranging from 93 to 187 liters/ha.

^bNumber of experiments in which a given treatment was evaluated.

^cFeekes growth stages 9, 10, 10.5 and 10.5.1 correspond to full flag leaf emergence, boot, full head emergence, and early anthesis, respectively. D and Q indicate the chemical class of the fungicide(s) applied at each growth stage

^dPrior to 2008, prothioconazole, prothioconazole + tebuconazole, and metconazole were tested as experimental products under various code names and, in some years, prothioconazole + tebuconazole was prepared by tank mixing Folicur 3.6 and Proline 480 (Paul et al. 2008). Generic tebuconazole (Tebucon and Onset) was used instead of Folicur 3.6 F in some trials.

Table 2. Number of years, states and trials in which the listed fungicide treatments were evaluated for their effect on Fusarium head blight index (IND), deoxynivalenol (DON), grain yield, and test weight (TW) in wheat^a

Treatment ^b	Number of trial years				Number of states				Total number of trials			
	IND	DON	Yield	TW	IND	DON	Yield	TW	IND	DON	Yield	TW
Check	19	17	17	17	16	15	16	16	292	207	245	225
TEBU_F10.5.1	19	17	17	17	16	15	16	16	249	175	202	185
PROT_F10.5.1	7	6	7	7	15	13	15	14	109	80	76	68
TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	12	12	12	12	15	15	16	16	213	153	196	184
METC_F10.5.1	13	13	13	13	15	15	16	16	214	154	193	186
PYRA_F9	5	5	5	5	11	11	11	10	61	46	61	59
PYRA_F10	3	3	3	3	7	7	7	7	35	30	34	33
PYRA_F10.5	4	4	4	4	9	9	9	9	50	38	50	48
AZOX_F10.5	1	1	1	1	8	7	8	7	17	10	17	16
FLUO_F10.5	1	1	1	1	6	5	6	5	12	5	12	11
PYRA+METC_F10.5	1	1	1	1	9	8	9	8	18	11	18	17
AZOX+PROP_F10.5	1	1	1	1	10	9	10	8	19	12	19	17
TRIF+PROT_F10.5	1	1	1	1	10	9	10	8	19	12	19	17
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1	2	2	2	2	8	6	8	6	28	17	30	28
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	2	2	2	2	7	6	7	7	17	13	19	19
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1	1	1	1	1	4	3	4	4	13	9	15	15

^aUniform fungicide trials were conducted in 17 US states (AR, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NY, OH, SD, VA and WI) from 1995 through 2013, with varying number of states and trials per year.

^bTreatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC), or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA), azoxystrobin (AZOX), fluoxastrobin (FLUO), or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details).

Table 3. Estimated mean log response ratios and corresponding mean percent control of Fusarium head blight (FHB) index and deoxynivalenol (DON) relative to a non-treated check from network meta-analyses of the effect of fungicide treatments on FHB index and DON in wheat

Treatment ^a	FHB index ^b				Deoxynivalenol ^b			
	$\bar{L}^{(C)}$ (SE)	<i>P</i>	$\hat{\sigma}_L^2$	\bar{C} (CI)	$\bar{L}^{(C)}$ (SE)	<i>P</i>	$\hat{\sigma}_L^2$	\bar{C} (CI)
TEBU_F10.5.1	-0.51 (0.030)	<0.001	0.18	39.6 (36.0;43.1)	-0.22 (0.021)	<0.001	0.04	20.1 (16.6;23.4)
PROT_F10.5.1	-0.69 (0.045)	<0.001	0.22	49.9 (45.3;54.1)	-0.52 (0.039)	<0.001	0.12	40.3 (35.6;44.6)
TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	-0.72 (0.039)	<0.001	0.23	51.5 (47.6;55.1)	-0.48 (0.031)	<0.001	0.10	38.2 (34.3;41.8)
METC_F10.5.1	-0.74 (0.038)	<0.001	0.20	52.2 (48.6;55.6)	-0.55 (0.034)	<0.001	0.12	45.5 (38.5;46.2)
Standard	-0.72 (0.035)	<0.001	0.21	51.2 (47.8;54.4)	-0.52 (0.030)	<0.001	0.11	40.3 (36.7;43.8)
PYRA_F9 ^c	-0.06 (0.036)	0.111	0.04	5.5 (-1.3;11.9)	0.06 (0.030)	0.062	0.02	-5.9 (-12.4;0.3)
PYRA_F10 ^c	-0.12 (0.050)	0.009	0.03	11.2 (2.9;18.9)	0.14 (0.039)	<0.001	0.03	-15.3 (-24.6;-6.7)
PYRA_F10.5 ^c	-0.22 (0.040)	<0.001	0.04	21.8 (15.4;27.7)	0.16 (0.031)	<0.001	0.02	-17.8 (-25.2;-10.9)
AZOX_F10.5 ^c	0.16 (0.162)	0.130	0.64	-17.6(-44.9;4.63)	0.15 (0.059)	0.012	0.02	-16.1 (-30.3;-3.4)
FLUO_F10.5	-0.05 (0.093)	0.574	0.12	5.1 (-13.8;20.9)	0.12 (0.091)	0.175	0.21	-13.1 (-35.1;5.3)
PYRA+METC_F10.5	-0.17 (0.073)	0.020	0.16	15.7 (2.7;27.0)	0.02 (0.061)	0.768	0.05	-1.8 (-14.8; 9.7)
AZOX+PROP_F10.5 ^c	-0.11 (0.074)	0.146	0.11	10.2 (-3.8;22.4)	0.14 (0.056)	0.013	0.03	-15.0 (-28.5;-3.0)
TRIF+PROT_F10.5	-0.19 (0.081)	0.019	0.22	17.4 (3.1;29.5)	-0.01 (0.056)	0.829	0.03	1.3 (-11.1;12.3)
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1	-0.54 (0.080)	<0.001	0.22	41.8 (31.9;50.2)	-0.34 (0.060)	<0.001	0.04	26.6 (19.6;36.6)
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	-0.61 (0.104)	<0.001	0.14	45.7 (33.5;55.7)	-0.36 (0.076)	<0.001	0.11	30.5 (19.3;40.1)
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1	-0.38 (0.120)	0.002	0.27	31.2 (13.1;45.6)	-0.10 (0.074)	0.198	0.10	9.1 (-5.1;21.5)

^aTreatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC) or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA), azoxystrobin (AZOX), fluoxastrobin (FLUO), or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details). Standard represents the mean of PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1.

^bLog response ratios relative to a non-treated check ($\bar{L}^{(C)}$) and their corresponding standard errors (SE), levels of significance (*P*), between study variances ($\hat{\sigma}_L^2$), percent control (\bar{C}), and lower and upper limits of the 95% confidence intervals (CI) around \bar{C} .

^cPositive $\bar{L}^{(C)}$ values, and correspondingly, negative \bar{C} values signify significant increases in mean deoxynivalenol relative to the non-treated check in response to each of the indicated treatments (*P* < 0.05).

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Table 4. Log response ratios (effect sizes), percent change, and corresponding statistics for the effects of QoI+DMI sequential treatments relative to solo QoI- or DMI-only treatments on deoxynivalenol (DON) contamination of wheat grain from network meta-analyses of the effect of fungicide treatments on DON

Contrasts ^a	Effect size ^b					Percent change ^c		
	\bar{L}	$se(\bar{L})$	CI_L	CI_U	P	\bar{C}	CI_L	CI_U
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1 vs. METC_F10.5.1 ^d	0.22	0.062	0.34	0.09	<0.001	-24.1	-40.3	-9.8
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1 vs TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1 ^d	0.12	0.073	0.26	-0.02	0.106	-12.5	-29.7	2.5
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1 vs. TEBU_F10.5.1 ^d	0.13	0.074	0.27	-0.02	0.083	-13.7	-31.4	1.7
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1 vs. PYRA_F9	-0.39	0.065	-0.52	-0.27	<0.001	32.6	40.6	23.5
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1 vs. PYRA_F9	-0.42	0.081	-0.58	-0.26	<0.001	34.3	43.9	23.1
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1 vs. PYRA_F9	-0.15	0.078	-0.31	0.00	0.050	14.2	26.3	-0.01

^aTreatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), or metconazole (METC) or the quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA) applied at label-recommended rates either alone or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9) or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details). For all contrasts, the solo DMI treatments at anthesis or QoI treatments at Feekes 9 were the references against which the sequential application treatments were compared.

^b \bar{L} = mean log of the response ratio between pairs of treatments, $se(\bar{L})$ = standard error of \bar{L} , CI_U and CI_L = upper and lower limits of the 95% confidence interval around \bar{L} , and P = significance level.

^c \bar{C} = mean percent change estimated from \bar{L} as $\bar{C} = [1 - \exp(\bar{L})] \cdot 100$, and CI_U and CI_L = upper and lower limits of the 95% confidence interval around \bar{C} .

^dPositive \bar{L} values, and correspondingly, negative \bar{C} values signify increases in mean deoxynivalenol relative to the reference treatment with each of the indicated treatment.

Table 5. Estimated mean log response ratios and corresponding mean percent increase in Fusarium head blight (FHB) index and deoxynivalenol (DON) relative to a standard set of treatments from network meta-analyses of the effect of fungicide treatments on FHB index and DON in wheat

Treatment ^a	FHB index ^b			Deoxynivalenol ^b		
	$\bar{L}^{(S)}$ (SE)	<i>P</i>	\bar{S} (CI)	$\bar{L}^{(S)}$ (SE)	<i>P</i>	\bar{S} (CI)
TEBU_F10.5.1	0.21 (0.024)	<0.001	23.8 (18.0;29.7)	0.30 (0.023)	<0.001	34.0 (28.0;40.3)
PYRA_F9	0.66 (0.043)	<0.001	93.7 (77.9;110.9)	0.57 (0.041)	<0.001	77.5 (63.8;92.3)
PYRA_F10	0.60 (0.054)	<0.001	81.9 (63.2;102.0)	0.66 (0.011)	<0.001	93.3 (74.7;113.8)
PYRA_F10.5	0.47 (0.049)	<0.001	60.3 (45.7;76.4)	0.68 (0.040)	<0.001	97.6 (82.5;113.8)
AZOX_F10.5	0.88 (0.118)	<0.001	141.0 (91.3;203.5)	0.67 (0.065)	<0.001	94.6 (71.4;120.9)
FLUO_F10.5	0.67 (0.102)	<0.001	94.6 (59.3;137.6)	0.64 (0.098)	<0.001	89.6 (56.5;129.6)
PYRA+METC_F10.5	0.17 (0.076)	0.020	19.4 (2.9;38.3)	0.54 (0.064)	<0.001	70.7 (50.4;93.7)
AZOX+PROP_F10.5	0.61 (0.084)	<0.001	84.0 (56.1;116.9)	0.66 (0.063)	<0.001	92.8 (70.6;117.9)
TRIF+PROP_F10.5	0.53 (0.090)	<0.001	69.4 (41.9;102.1)	0.50 (0.065)	<0.001	65.5 (45.7;88.0)
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1	0.18 (0.076)	0.020	19.4 (2.9;38.5)	0.18 (0.061)	0.003	19.6 (6.2;34.8)
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	0.11 (0.102)	0.296	11.3 (8.9;36.1)	0.15 (0.072)	0.034	16.6 (1.1;34.3)
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1	0.34 (0.117)	0.003	40.9 (12.1;77.2)	0.42 (0.074)	<0.001	52.3 (31.8;76.1)

^aTreatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC) or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA), azoxystrobin (AZOX), fluoxastrobin (FLUO), or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details).

^bLog response ratios relative to a standard set of treatments ($\bar{L}^{(S)}$) and their corresponding standard errors (SE), levels of significance (*P*), percent increase (\bar{S}), and lower and upper limits of the 95% confidence intervals (*CI*) around \bar{S} . The standard set of treatments represents the mean of PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1.

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Table 6. Estimated mean difference in grain yield and test weight relative to a non-treated check and corresponding statistics from network meta-analyses of the effects of fungicide treatments on wheat grain yield and test weight in Fusarium head blight affected plots

Treatment ^a	Grain yield ^b					Test weight ^b				
	$\bar{D}^{(C)}$ (SE)	CI	P	$\hat{\sigma}_D^2(\times 10^3)$	p_{250}	$\bar{D}^{(C)}$ (SE)	CI	P	$\hat{\sigma}_D^2$	p_{12}
TEBU_F10.5.1	274 (19)	237;310	<0.001	35	0.55	9.6 (0.9)	7.9;11.4	<0.001	96	0.40
PROT_F10.5.1	393 (30)	333;452	<0.001	67	0.71	15.3 (1.5)	12.4;18.1	<0.001	218	0.59
TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	432 (22)	388;476	<0.001	63	0.76	16.0 (1.2)	13.6;18.4	<0.001	206	0.61
METC_F10.5.1	399 (22)	355;441	<0.001	58	0.73	16.2 (1.6)	12.9;19.4	<0.001	455	0.58
Standard ^c	408 (21)	367;448	<0.001	64	0.73	15.8 (1.3)	13.3;18.4	<0.001	290	0.59
PYRA_F9	221 (50)	123;319	<0.001	247	0.48	3.7 (1.3)	1.1;6.3	0.005	46	0.11
PYRA_F10	180 (51)	80;280	<0.001	184	0.44	2.3 (1.8)	-1.3;5.9	0.216	52	0.09
PYRA_F10.5	275 (48)	180;369	<0.001	196	0.52	4.1 (1.4)	1.3;6.8	0.004	46	0.12
AZOX_F10.5	188 (73)	45;330	0.001	293	0.45	0.9 (2.2)	-3.3;5.1	0.673	66	0.09
FLUO_F10.5	236 (80)	78;394	0.003	326	0.49	2.2 (2.7)	-3.1;7.5	0.418	57	0.10
PYRA+METC_F10.5	333 (58)	218;448	<0.001	148	0.59	10.5 (2.0)	6.5;14.5	<0.001	139	0.45
AZOX+PROP_F10.5	174 (67)	42;306	0.010	249	0.44	4.6 (2.0)	0.6;8.6	0.023	70	0.19
TRIF+PROT_F10.5	226 (74)	81;372	0.002	317	0.48	7.3 (2.0)	3.4;11.3	<0.001	100	0.32
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1	435 (39)	359;511	<0.001	48	0.80	11.2 (1.8)	7.7;14.8	<0.001	175	0.48
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	504 (49)	409;599	<0.001	61	0.85	14.9 (2.2)	10.7;19.1	<0.001	292	0.57
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1	467 (52)	366;568	<0.001	55	0.82	11.4 (2.2)	7.0;15.8	<0.001	130	0.48

^aTreatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC) or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA), azoxystrobin (AZOX), fluoxastrobin (FLUO), or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details).

^bEstimated mean difference in yield (kg ha⁻¹) and test weight (kg m⁻³) relative to a non-treated check ($\bar{D}^{(C)}$), standard errors (SE) of $\bar{D}^{(C)}$, levels of significance (P), between study variance ($\hat{\sigma}_D^2$), and lower and upper limits of the 95% confidence intervals (CI) around $\bar{D}^{(C)}$, p_{250} = estimated probability of obtaining a mean yield increase of 250 kg ha⁻¹, and p_{12} = estimated probability of obtaining a mean test weight increase of 12 kg/m³ in a new random study.

^cThe standard treatment represents the mean of PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1.

Table 7. Estimated mean difference in grain yield and test weight relative to a standard set of treatments and corresponding statistics from network meta-analyses of the effects of fungicide treatments on yield and test weight of wheat grain harvested from Fusarium head blight affected plots

Treatment ^a	Grain yield ^b			Test weight ^b		
	$\bar{D}^{(S)}$ (SE)	CI	P	$\bar{D}^{(S)}$ (SE)	CI	P
TEBU_F10.5.1	9.6 (0.9)	7.9;11.4	<0.001	-6.2 (1.0)	-8.0;-4.3	<0.001
PYRA_F9	-186 (43)	-270;-103	<0.001	-12.1 (1.7)	-15.3;-8.8	<0.001
PYRA_F10	-227 (45)	-316;-138	<0.001	-13.5 (2.2)	-17.8;-9.2	<0.001
PYRA_F10.5	-132 (42)	-215;-51	0.001	-11.7 (1.7)	-15.1;-8.4	<0.001
AZOX_F10.5	-220 (67)	-352;-88	0.001	-14.9 (2.4)	-19.7;-10.1	<0.001
FLUO_F10.5	-172 (75)	-319;-24	0.023	-13.6 (2.9)	-19.3;-7.9	<0.001
PYRA+METC_F10.5	-75 (54)	-181;32	0.170	-5.3 (2.0)	-9.2;-1.4	0.008
AZOX+PROP_F10.5	-234 (62)	-356;-112	<0.001	-11.2 (2.1)	-15.3;-7.0	<0.001
TRIF+PROT_F10.5	-181 (69)	-316;-47	0.008	-8.5 (2.1)	-12.5;-4.4	<0.001
PYRA_F9+METC_F10.5.1	28 (37)	-45;100	0.455	-4.6 (1.7)	-7.8;-1.3	0.006
PYRA_F9+TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1	96 (46)	5;188	0.039	-0.9 (1.8)	-4.5;2.7	0.626
PYRA_F9+TEBU_F10.5.1	60 (5)	-38;158	0.232	-4.4 (2.2)	-8.7;-0.1	0.044

^aTreatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC) or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA), azoxystrobin (AZOX), fluoxastrobin (FLUO), or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for detail).

^bEstimated mean difference in yield (kg ha⁻¹) and test weight (kg m⁻³) relative to a standard set of treatments ($\bar{D}^{(S)}$), standard errors (SE) $\bar{D}^{(S)}$, levels of significance (P), and lower and upper limits of the 95% confidence intervals (CI) around $\bar{D}^{(S)}$. The standard set of treatments represents the mean of PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1.

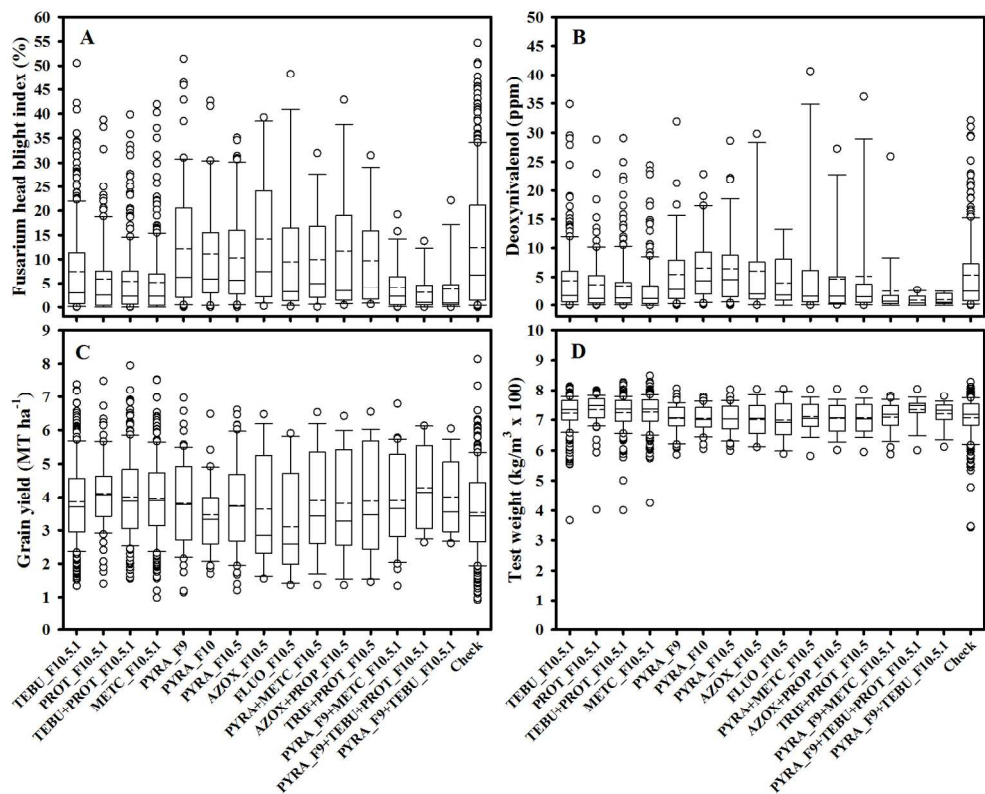


Fig. 1. Box plot showing the distribution of least square mean Fusarium head blight index (A), deoxynivalenol content of harvested grain (B), grain yield (C) and test weight (D) for different fungicide treatments. Treatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC) or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA), azoxystrobin (AZOX), fluoxastrobin (FLUO), or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details). Broken and solid lines within each box represent means and medians, respectively, while the top and bottom lines of the box represent the 75th and 25th percentiles of the data, respectively. Vertical bars extending beyond the boxes represent the 10th and 90th percentiles, while circles represent outliers.

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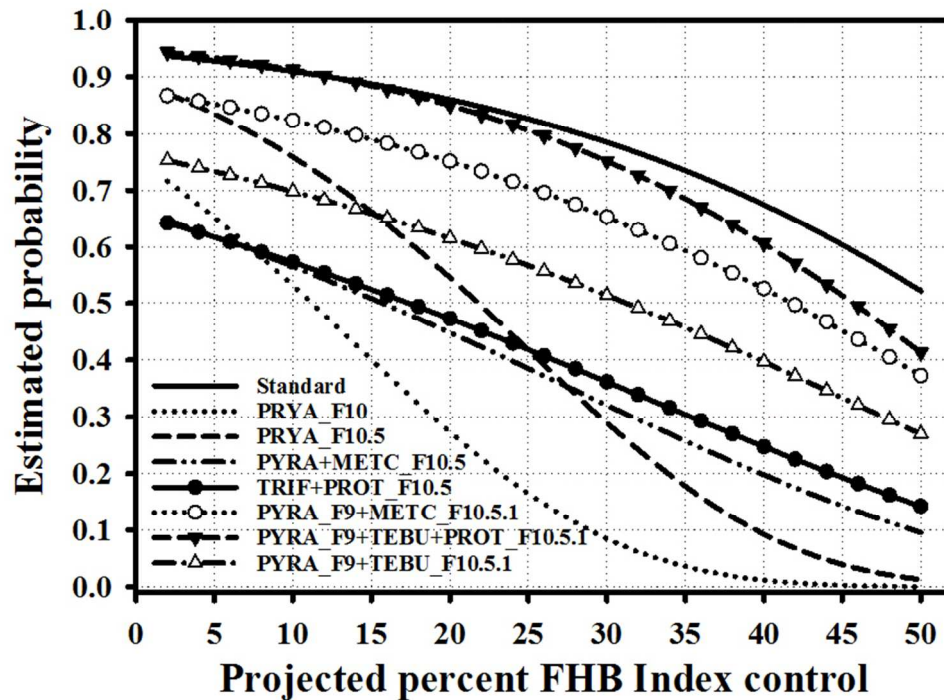


Fig. 2. Estimated probabilities of observing between a 2 and 50% decrease in Fusarium head blight (FHB) index relative to the non-treated check following the application of different fungicide treatments to FHB affected plots in a new randomly selected trial. Treatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), or metconazole (METC), or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA) or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details). The standard, included here as a reference for comparison, represents the mean of the PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1 treatments. In addition to the standard, probabilities were calculated only for those QoI-only and QoI+DMI combination treatments that had a statistically significant effect on FHB index, using the mean log response ratios and between study variances in Table 3.

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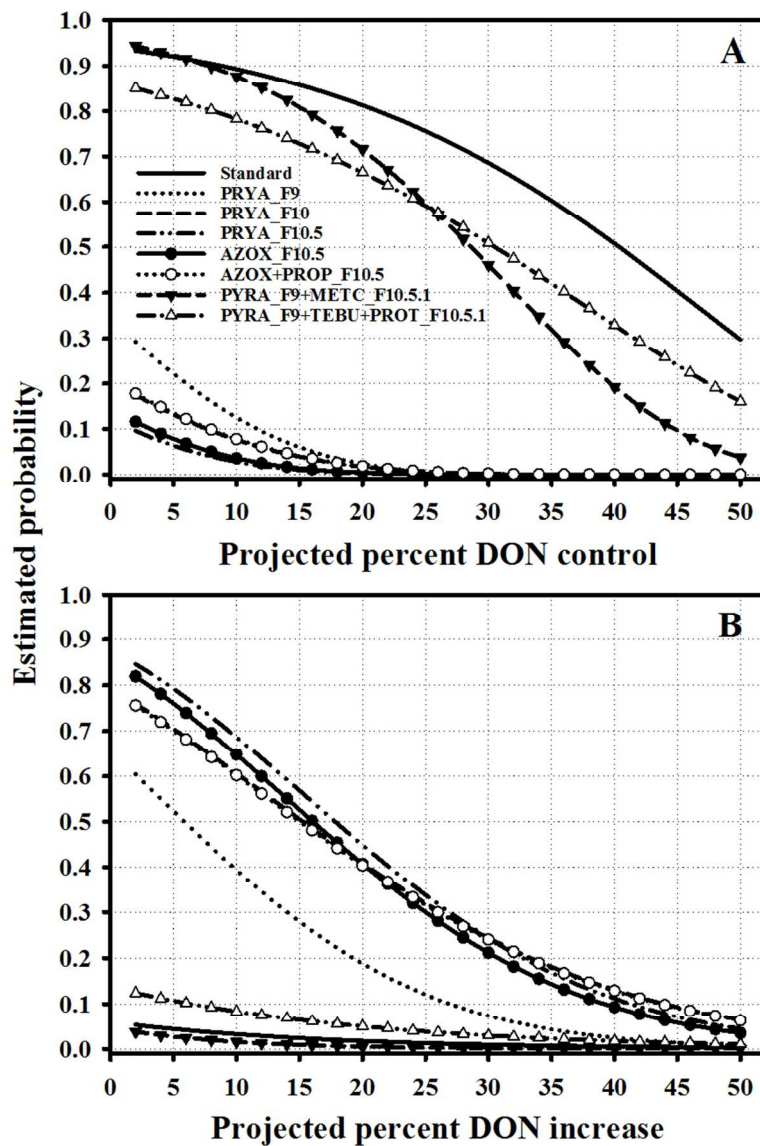


Fig. 3. Estimated probabilities of observing between 2 and 50% control (A) and increase (B) in deoxynivalenol (DON) contamination of harvested grain relative to the non-treated check following the application of different fungicide treatments to FHB affected plots in a new randomly selected trial. Treatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC), or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA) or azoxystrobin (AZOX) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details). The standard, included here as a reference for comparison, represents the mean of the PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1 treatments. In addition to the standard, probabilities were calculated only for those QoI-only and QoI+DMI combination treatments that had a statistically significant effect on DON, using the mean log response ratios and between study variances in Table 3.

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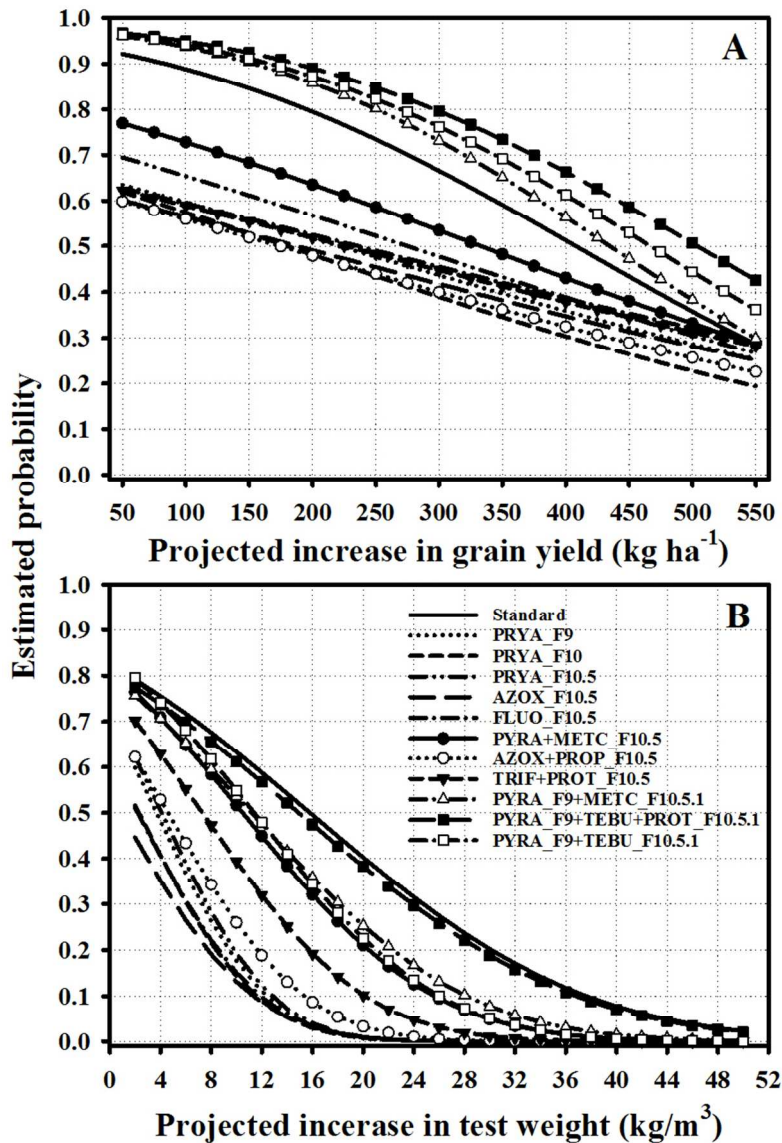


Fig. 4. Estimated probabilities of observing between a 50 and 550 kg ha⁻¹ increase in grain yield (A) and a 2 and 50 kg/m³ increase in test weight (B) relative to the non-treated check following the application of different fungicide treatments to FHB affected plots in a new randomly selected trial. Treatments consisted of demethylation inhibitor fungicides tebuconazole (TEBU), prothioconazole (PROT), propiconazole (PROP), or metconazole (METC), or quinone outside inhibitor fungicides pyraclostrobin (PYRA), azoxystrobin (AZOX), fluoxastrobin (FLUO), or trifloxystrobin (TRIF) applied at label-recommended rates either as solo active ingredients, premixes, or sequentially during flag leaf emergence (Feekes growth stage 8-9, abbreviated as F9), at boot (Feekes 10; F10), at full head emergence (Feekes 10.5; F10.5), or at anthesis (Feekes 10.5.1; F10.5.1) (see Table 1 for details). The standard, included here as a reference for comparison, represents the mean of PROT_F10.5.1, TEBU+PROT_F10.5.1, and METC_F10.5.1. Probabilities were estimated using the mean log response ratios and between study variances in Table 6.

154x230mm (150 x 150 DPI)

