MU Extension Crop and Field Update from Barton County

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields west of Lamar near lanthan and Arcola on March 11. She reports that no diseases or aphids were seen, but henbit, wild garlic, and other winter annuals were found in fields.

“Wheat is in green-up the stage, when plants resume growth once temperatures begin to warm. This is an important stage to keep plants healthy because wheat head size is determined,” said Scheidt.

Wheat head size determines the maximum yield potential. It is important to control weeds and diseases during this stage.

“Do not apply 2, 4-D before wheat is fully tillered, usually eight to 10 inches tall. Use Harmony or a generic instead at this time to control broadleaf weeds,” said Scheidt.

Average wheat tiller counts were 90 per square foot. To determine tiller number, count all stems with three or more leaves, but do not count the main stem. It is a good idea to take counts from three to five different places in the field to determine the average population.

“If you wish to count linearly, count plants in 19 inches in 7.5 inch-row-widths,” said Scheidt.

If the wheat population count is below 80 tillers per square foot, Scheidt says it is advised to apply quick release nitrogen now, as opposed to during the jointing stage. If tillers are above 90 tillers per square foot, wait until jointing to apply nitrogen because this provides the greatest yield benefit to wheat.

“If livestock is grazing wheat that will be harvested for seed, remove them before the joint stage when the first node forms,” said Scheidt.

More Information
The weekly field scouting report is sponsored by University of Missouri and Barton County Extension. For more information on the scouting report, or to learn how to receive the information earlier by telephone, contact the Barton County Extension Center at (417) 682-3579.