**Wheat in tiller and green-up stages**

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields east of Lamar and just north of Arcola on March 18.

Wheat is still in the tiller and green-up stages. Wheat is still developing tillers in the tiller stage; green-up occurs after tiller stage when temperatures begin to warm.

Tiller populations were lower in fields checked in Barton County with an average of 75 tillers per square foot. Tiller populations still averaged 90 tillers per square foot in consistently monitored fields near Arcola.

Remember, if tillers are below 80 per square foot; add a nitrogen fertilizer now to jump-start plants. If tiller populations are above 90 per square foot, wait until the joint stage to add nitrogen in order to see the greatest utilization of nitrogen and the greatest yield benefit to the wheat. Nitrogen fertilizer should only be added to wheat before the joint stage if tiller population is low or if there are less than 2 tillers per plant from late February to early March.

Mainly henbit and chickweed are being seen in wheat fields. Winter annual weeds are especially important to control during these growth stages. Weeds can cause the most damage to yield because they compete with wheat for light, moisture and nutrients. If wheat is not done tillering, usually at 8-10 inches in height, do not control weeds with 2,4-D as it can stunt wheat growth and affect yield. Use a herbicide like Harmony to control broadleaves.

**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.