Not too late to plant corn in Southwest Missouri

Wheat is in the second joint stage now according to Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, who scouted fields north and west of Lockwood on April 22.

“Nitrogen fertilizer should not be applied past the second joint stage to avoid leaf burning. After the second joint, yield response to added nitrogen progressively declines as plant development advances,” said Scheidt.

Bird cherry oat aphids were scouted in wheat at threshold levels of 12-15 per foot of row in some fields, other fields were well below threshold level. Scheidt says to apply 1.3 to 1.9oz/acre of Warrior or 3.2 to 4oz/acre of Mustang to control aphids at threshold levels.

Voles
Scheidt also observed vole feeding in wheat in one small spot. “Voles are small rodents that are bigger than mice but smaller than rats and can be identified by their small ears. Vole feeding looks similar to armyworm feeding, except, voles clip stems at an angle and usually leave stems in a pile. Feces pellets can often be seen next to clipped stems as well,” said Scheidt. There is no threshold for voles since damage is often more associated with root damage by underground tunnels.

Corn
According the National Agriculture Statistic Service, 22 percent of southwest Missouri has completed corn planting as of April 19.

According to Bill Wiebold, plant sciences with University of Missouri Extension, differences occur among years for response of corn yield to planting date. “Weather conditions in July and early August affect corn yield far more than planting date and weather during planting. It is difficult to predict in any specific year what will happen to corn yield if planting is delayed. However, on average, corn yield potential declines during May, first slowly, but then at an increasing rate toward the end of the month,” said Wiebold. The costs and benefits of switching corn acreage to another crop such as soybeans vary among farmers and fields. Each farmer must make the decisions for their comfort level. “But, our data indicates that switching out of corn may not be wise even if planting is delayed until the end of May,” said Wiebold. “Studies done by the University of Missouri on a planting date correlation to yield have only focused on yield, not drying benefits.”

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.