**Nitrogen should be applied before joint stage in wheat**

Wheat is nearing the joint stage or starting to joint in most area fields according to Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension. Scheidt scouted fields in Arcola and south of Mindenmines on April 8.

“Stem elongation is initiated at jointing and during this time wheat has an increased demand for nitrogen. It is critical to apply nitrogen just before the joint stage so it is available for uptake by the plant. Nitrogen can be applied up to the second node or joint, but it is best to apply nitrogen before this stage to avoid the risk of burning the leaves,” said Scheidt.

While scouting fields, five to seven greenbug aphids per linear foot were seen. Threshold levels are 300-500 per linear foot. Bird cherry oat aphid threshold levels are 12-15 per linear foot. Scheidt recommends applying 1.3 to 1.9oz/acre of Warrior or 3.2 to 4oz/acre of Mustang to control aphids at threshold levels.

Rust, most likely leaf rust, was reported by a crop consultant in Jasper County near baseline road; it was only found on one leaf and not seen since. “Rust typically occurs during periods of warm wet weather,” said Scheidt. To control rust, apply 6.5-8.2 oz/ ac Prosaro or 10-17 oz/ac Caramba as soon as symptoms are detected. Visit the Barton County Extension Crop Scouting webpage for tips on identifying types of rust.

Scheidt recommends controlling weeds in corn when less than 2 inches in height and diameter and pairing a residual herbicide like Lumax or Zidua, with glyphosate for a burndown application. Consult the MU 2015 Pest Management Guide to see which herbicide best controls weeds present in your fields.

**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.