Spray for Head Scab; Armyworms found in Dade County; Keep scouting in wheat

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields east of Carthage in Jasper County on May 13 and along with fields near Arcola in Dade County. She found several things of concern in the wheat and armyworms in fescue fields.

**Wheat Fields**

“Wet, humid weather increases the possibility of Fusarium head scab infecting wheat during flowering, so applying a fungicide like Caramba, Prosaro or Proline during flowering is advised. To be effective, fungicide labels say applications need to be made during flowering so do not spray unless the entire field is in the flowering stage,” said Scheidt.

Fusarium is identified by a pink colored fungus on the kernel and can cause blank kernels and mycotoxins that are toxic to humans and livestock.

Scheidt observed stripe rust on wheat leaves and advises using one of the above fungicides to stop further progression of the disease if it moves toward the flag leaf.

“If some wheat heads are twisted and bent, heads did not normally emerge due to weather conditions. Over time, heads should straighten and should not cause yield loss unless the racine, which the spikelets are connected to, is broken and nutrients are unable to move up to the spikelets at the top of the head,” said Scheidt.

Scheidt did not find armyworms in area wheat but advises that scouting should begin now. She has a video demonstrating how to scout available at [http://www.youtube.com/MUExtension417](http://www.youtube.com/MUExtension417).

**Corn Fields**

Scheidt observed corn in the 2-4 leaf stage and still advises black cutworm scouing occur until the 4-5 leaf stage. “Look for clipped plants and black worms nearby,” said Scheidt.

Scheidt did not see enough slug or European corn borers feeding to warrant an insecticide application. “Slugs leave uneven holes on leaves, while European corn borers feed through the whorl, leaving holes horizontally across the leaf,” said Scheidt.

**Army Worms**

Scheidt did report finding one to three armyworms per square foot in fescue fields near Arcola, in Dade County on Wednesday, May 13. The threshold level for armyworms in fescue or wheat is four per square foot.

“These armyworms were a half inch to an inch long, which means I probably missed some,” said Schmidt. “These are younger larvae, so more damage is likely to come.”

She did not see any head clipping, just a little foliage feeding. Treatment would include 3-4.3 oz/ac of Mustang or 1.28-1.92 oz/acre Warrior, which is labeled for control of armyworm in fescue pastures. None have been seen in wheat yet.

“Scout for armyworm by aggressively beating wheat or fescue, then look on the ground for worms,” 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.