Head Scab and Armyworms appearing in wheat

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields east of Iantha in Barton County on May 20.

Wheat
“Wheat is finished flowering, and Fusarium head scab was seen on a few heads, but once flowering is complete, it is too late to treat for head scab,” said Scheidt.

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

Scheidt observed 0-6 armyworms per square foot in wheat fields. Armyworms were also observed in fescue fields at threshold levels. The threshold level for armyworms is 4 per square foot; Warrior II or Mustang Max are recommended insecticides to control armyworm at threshold levels.

“Scout for armyworms by aggressively beating wheat stems or grass together and looking on the ground and under debris for armyworms. Rain and hot weather slows armyworm feeding, but if threshold levels are reached, an insecticide should be applied to avoid damage, as armyworms can destroy a whole field in just one night,” said Scheidt.

Corn
Scheidt observed corn in the emergent stage to the 5-leaf stage.

“No black cutworms have been seen, but should be scouted for in corn fields due to the cool, wet weather up to the 5-leaf stage. Scout for clipped plants, cutworms can often be found near the base of the clipped plant just below the surface of the ground,” said Scheidt.

Scheidt says she did see signs of sulfur and nitrogen deficiencies, most likely due to leaching or runoff from recent rains. Sulfur deficiency is identified by yellowing between the leaf veins, and nitrogen deficiency is identified by a general yellowing.

Visit the “Nitrogen Watch” website to track rainfall and risk of nitrogen loss during spring.

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.