Armyworms found in wheat; Nutrient deficiencies in corn

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields near Arcola in Dade County and east of Mindenmines in Barton County on May 27. Her key findings were armyworms in wheat and nutrient deficiencies in corn.

Wheat Findings
"Wheat is in the milk stage, and Fusarium head scab was seen," said Scheidt. Head scab can be identified by blank kernels with a pinkish fungus. There are no post-treatment controls for head scab.

Fusarium Head Scab
Scheidt observed 0 to 3 armyworms per square foot in wheat. The threshold level is four armyworms per square foot. Warrior II or Mustang Max are recommended insecticides to control armyworm at threshold levels.

Corn Findings
"Twisted corn with leaves having trouble coming out of the whorl is due to a reaction from cool weather and an earlier applied herbicide like Degree, Harness, Dual II Magnum or Warrant," said Scheidt.

Temporary phosphorus deficiency, identified by purple leaves and sulfur deficiency, identified by yellowing between the veins, are still being seen due to cold weather and rain. Temporary deficiencies and twisted corn is fairly common and is unlikely to cause yield damage.

To keep corn healthy during the six-leaf stage, when kernel rows are being determined, Scheidt recommends adding nitrogen if needed.

"If the ground is too wet for a nitrogen application, you can apply later because corn will show a yield response to nitrogen applied up to tasselling," said Scheidt.

"If you are considering replanting corn, use G4091 to help you decide," said Scheidt.
http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G4091

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.