Late planted soybeans must beat freeze

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields near Arcola in Dade County and near Verdella in Barton County on July 22.

Corn Report
Scheidt observed corn that was finished pollinating and either in the blister or milk stage.

To find out how well your corn pollinated, you can visit YouTube and search for Scheidt’s video, “How to tell how well corn pollinated.” (Direct link at http://youtu.be/imbS9Z6vJvE).

“Once pollination has occurred, silks are no longer needed, and Japanese beetles are not a threat,” said Scheidt.

Soybean Report
Scheidt observed soybeans ranging from emerging to bloom stages.

“Japanese beetle populations are lowering and should not be of much concern,” said Scheidt. Threshold levels for Japanese beetle in soybean are 30 percent defoliation before bloom and 20 percent defoliation during and after bloom.

Bill Wiebold, plant science professor at University of Missouri conducted a two-year study on this issue. Using a seeding population of 150,000 seeds per acre and a maturity group three, soybeans planted in mid-July yielded around 30 bushels per acre.

Over 30 years of data from University of Missouri weather stations suggests that the median probability date for a killing freeze, of 28 degrees, begins Nov. 7.

“Soybean yield is protected from frost if the plants have reached physiological maturity. If a killing frost occurs before this time, harvest will be difficult and soybeans are likely not to change color,” 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.