Consider cover crops on summer fallow fields

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields near Arcola in Dade County and south of Jasper along Baseline Road in Jasper County on July 29.

Corn Report
Scheidt observed corn in from the milk stage to dent stage.

“Not many corn earworms were seen, but as corn matures, earworms are less likely to feed on the kernels,” said Scheidt. Scheidt observed quite a bit of rust on corn leaves. “Once pollination is complete, less yield is lost due to diseases, therefore it is usually not economical to make a fungicide application,” said Scheidt.

Soybean Report
Scheidt observed emerging soybeans to soybeans in the bloom stage.

“Japanese beetles are tapering off and should not warrant an insecticide treatment,” said Scheidt. Threshold for Japanese beetle are 30% defoliation before bloom and 20% defoliation during or after bloom.

“Scout for soybean podworm when soybeans begin to form pods by shaking plants so insects fall to the ground and are easily detected,” said Scheidt.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMWSwL1SBdQ

Cover Crop Considerations
Scheidt suggests planting cover crops on summer fallow fields to protect against weeds and soil erosion and to retain nutrients. “Legumes such as hairy vetch or crimson clover can be planted in mid-August to fix nitrogen in the soil. For grazing value, add spring oats, cereal rye, triticale, turnips or oil seed radish to the legume mix. Pay attention to herbicide restriction labels when terminating a cover crop,” said Scheidt. For seeding rates and dates visit the NRCS Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Guide.


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.