Rain increases disease and possibility of need for fungicide application

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields northwest of Lamar in Barton County on July 8.

Wheat Report
Scheidt does not recommend saving disease infected seed due to lowered germination rates and reduced vigor. “Check Fusarium infected wheat for vomotoxin levels; safe vomotoxin consumption levels are as follows: 1 ppm for humans, 10ppm for ruminants over 4 months old and poultry if less than 50% their of diet, 5ppm for swine if less than 20% of their diet and 5ppm for all other animals if less than 40% of their diet,” said Scheidt.

Corn Report
Scheidt observed corn in the tasseling to pollination stage. “High numbers of Japanese beetle have been caught in insect traps, but not many have been seen in corn fields,” said Scheidt. Scheidt recommends scouting for Japanese beetle during pollination, which usually starts 2 days after silk emergence and continues for up to 10 days. Threshold levels for Japanese beetle are 3 or more beetles per ear, clipping silks to less than ½” during pollination.

“To determine how well corn has pollinated, remove the husk, leaving the silk undisturbed; turn the ear horizontally and shake the ear, silks that have pollinated a kernel will not stay attached to the ear,” said Scheidt.

Scheidt observed a little rust on corn leaves. “Usually corn does not require fungicide treatment, but consider the following to determine if an application should be made: variety susceptibility, field history, and presence of leaf wetness for 8 or more hours. Fungicide treatments should be made from tasseling to the blister stage,” said Scheidt.

Soybean Report
Scheidt observed soybeans emerging to the 5th trifoliate stage. “A small number of Japanese beetles have been seen,” said Scheidt. Threshold levels for Japanese beetles are 30% defoliation before bloom and 20% during bloom. “Japanese beetles usually prefer corn over soybeans,” said Scheidt.

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.