Scout for Soybean Podworms and manage corn ear rots

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields near Arcola and south of Lockwood in Dade County Aug. 19.

Corn Report
Scheidt observed corn in the dent stage to one-eighth black layer. “Black layer is also known as physiological maturity and can be identified by breaking the ear in half and seeing how close the milk line is to the cob,” said Scheidt.

Black layer usually occurs 20 days after dent. Harvest corn at 15% moisture. “If ear rot is present, adjust harvest equipment for minimum kernel damage and maximum cleaning,” said Scheidt.

Scheidt recommends, before storing grain, clean bins thoroughly to remove dirt, dust and any grain left in or around bins. Thoroughly clean grain going in to storage to remove chaff, foreign material and cracked or broken kernels. Monitor grain on a regular basis during storage life to insure moisture and temperature are maintained at correct levels and protect grain from insects.
Stored grain should be monitored on a regular basis during the storage period to be certain storage molds are not developing in the grain mass. This will be especially important of grain stored in temporary storage structures.

Soybean Report
Scheidt observed soybeans in the 5th trifoliate to pod set stages. Scheidt observed septoria on more mature plants.

Septoria development is encouraged during warm, wet weather and can be identified by small lesions with black fruiting bodies in the middle of the lesions. Development starts on lower leaves, but usually doesn’t require treatment, unless soybeans are a high-value crop.

“If a fungicide is warranted, apply during the bloom to early pod stage if conditions are favorable for disease development,” said Scheidt.

Scheidt recommends scouting for podworms in podding soybeans. The threshold for podworm in soybeans is one per foot of row or when 5% of pods are damaged. “Late-planted or double crop soybeans are most at risk for attack from soybean pod worm,” 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.