Scout for Podworm in Soybean, Sugarcane Aphid in Milo

Jill Scheidt, agronomy specialist with University of Missouri Extension, scouted fields Aug. 26 near Arcola in Dade County and northeast of Lamar in Barton County.

Corn Report
Scheidt observed corn at black layer or physiological maturity. She recommends harvesting corn at 15 percent moisture. “If ear rot is present on kernels, set combine for maximum cleaning and minimum damage. Monitor bins throughout storage to ensure proper moisture and temperature,” said Scheidt.

To estimate corn yield, multiple the average number of ears in 1/1000th of an acre, average number of rows per ear and the average number of kernels per row. Divide that total by 85, which is the average number of kernels per bushel when divided by 1000.

Soybean Report
Scheidt observed soybeans in the 6th trifoliate to beginning seed development stages.

“Scout for pod worms when soybeans begin flowering; less than one pod worm per foot of row was found this week,” said Scheidt. The threshold for pod worm in soybean is 1 per foot of row or when 5 percent of pods are damaged. “Podworms can be distinguished from other caterpillars by identifying the number of prolegs at the middle of the body. Soybean pod worms have 4 prolegs, come in many different colors and have longitudinal stripes and black spines that look like black dots on their body,” said Scheidt.

If late planted soybeans are at a high risk for freeze, consider baling, says Scheidt. Rob Kallenbach, University of Missouri Extension state forage specialist, recommends harvesting soybean hay or silage when 50 percent of pods have immature beans. “Soybean hay quality can vary, but typically has 16-19 percent crude protein and 50-55 percent total digestible nutrients,” said Kallenbach.

Grain Sorghum Report
Special insect alert for sugarcane aphid in grain sorghum: According to Moneen Jones, University of Missouri research entomologist, six counties in southeast Missouri have already been recorded to have imminent crop damage from sugarcane aphid. “If sugarcane aphid is untreated or under-treated, it can cause 100 percent loss. Sugarcane aphid have been moving 40 miles per week and typically reached threshold 3-7 days after discovery,” said Jones. Threshold for sugarcane aphid is when 25 percent of plants have 50 or more aphids.

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.