Hello, this is Mike Dennigmann, agronomy intern, with your May 16th crop update.

Fields were scouted west of Lamar.

Overall the condition of wheat fields scouted looked very good. All fields scouted were in the anthesis stage. However one field observed showed heavy evidence of disease including Septoria and stagonospora. Other fields observed showed some evidence of powdery mildew, smut, and leaf rust, which is due to the fact we had cool wet weather for an extended period of time. The state of Missouri has been flagged as a red state for the possibility for scab infestation, the University is recommending all fields be sprayed at the proper stage of development to prevent this problem. Most other diseases associated with the same pathogen will be controlled with the same chemical. The proper stage of treatment is early to mid anthesis. It seems as aphid populations in fields are decreasing as none were found today.

Some of the corn fields observed have not yet been planted. Most of the corn fields scouted today the plants were about 6-8 inches tall and overall looked good with low weed and insect pressure. In most of the fields scouted the plants were showing a yellowing or purpling of the leaves due to the excess moisture which is making the nutrients in the soil unavailable for plant uptake. In some areas corn has been lost due the weather. Corn planted by the end of May still has the potential to make a strong yield. Keep in mind for anyone considering switching to soybean, seed in varieties made for our area might be very limited and pricey.

In the cool season grasses scouted no evidence of armyworm was found but high numbers have been reported in the area. And especially with the warmer weather producers should be on the lookout.

This past week has been a window for those wanting to make hay, as we have seen farmers cropping as much as they can at this time. And those with alfalfa keep in mind that mowing early is sometimes an effective way to control alfalfa weevil.

At 9AM today the Lamar weather station recorded a 2 inch bare soil temperature of 65 degrees F.

Call 417-682-3579, for more information, thank you.