Fields scouted NE of Liberal and south of Mindenmines.

Corn in the milk stage. Southern rust has been confirmed in SW Missouri in Barton County. Gray leaf spot is in all fields scouted. When considering a fungicide, leaves at and above the ear are most important to protect. Leaves at ear level and above are responsible for at least 60 percent of grain fill- https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/GrainFill.html Given the wet conditions, consider a fungicide at tassel. It is important to differentiate between common and southern rust, as southern rust can cause significant yield loss. Common rust has brick red pustules, sparsely scattered on the upper and lower leaf surface. Southern rust has orange pustules, densely clustered on the upper leaf surface only. Mid-May or later planted corn is at higher risk for yield reduction from southern rust. Fungicide applications for southern rust are beneficial even with corn in the milk stages. Follow the southern rust movement at https://corn.ipmpipe.org/southerncornrust/.

In flying over Missouri, Peter Scharf, MU state fertility specialists estimates SW Missouri has had the most nitrogen loss, and estimated a 20 bushel/acre yield reduction.

Soybeans ranged from emerging to early bloom. Less than 5% foliage feeding was observed. Threshold level for all foliage feeding insects in soybeans are 30% defoliation before bloom and 20% defoliation during or after bloom. Small water hemp was present in most fields, for most effective control, treat weeds when they are 2-4” in height or diameter.

Health tip: In general, sunscreen is effective for up to 3 years. It is recommended to wear a minimum SPF of 30.