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Wheat Pests

Wheat (and alfalfa) continue to develop slowly throughout north central Kansas. Wheat mites, mostly winter grain and brown wheat mites, are still active throughout the central part of the state, but both species are slowly transitioning into their summer, non-feeding, stage (i.e., mite count in several fields averaged 50-60 winter grain mites per plant on 10 April, but only 7-10 per plant on 20 April). They have been feeding and thus competing with the plants for the little moisture that is present, thus we are often seeing the kind of feeding damage as in figure 1. Hopefully, adequate moisture plus the transition to the mite’s non-feeding stage will help these areas recover.

Figure 1 Mite damage on the Dickinson Co. line (picture by Jay Wisbey)

Jeff Whitworth – Field Crop Entomology
Bug Joke of the Week

Q: What goes 99 thump, 99 thump, 99 thump?
A: A centipede with a wooden leg.

Sharon Schroll

Sincerely,

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