

This year in Barton County, the Market Wheat Show will be a State Fair only show, but producers may still enter through the Extension office. A farmer can submit 10 lbs. of a variety of wheat, either by bringing it to our office, or to the local co-ops and completing a small information page. The sample will then be tested and scored. Due to increased costs at the State Level, there will be a charge of 1.00 to enter into the State Contest payable upon entry. If you are interested, please call 620-793-1910 or come into the office at 1800 12th street. Entries are due by July 31st.

After your wheat has been harvested, it is also a good idea to monitor your garden for Thrips. These are tiny insects that feed on developing flowers and leaves. If thrips feed on your tomato plants, they can cause the spread of a virus known as Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. One symptom of this disease is white or yellow rings developing on the young fruit. There is no treatment if the virus is present, prevention is key. To help prevent this disease, control the weeds around the garden to make it more difficult for the Thrips to get to your plants. If you see symptoms of the ailment, remove the infected plant immediately. Insecticides can be used, but with limited success. Your best defense is observation and early control if you happen to see these insects.

Alicia Boor is an Agriculture and Natural Resources agent in the Cottonwood District (which includes Barton and Ellis counties) for K-State Research and Extension. You can contact her by e-mail at aboor@ksu.edu or calling 620-793-1910