Albino Wheat

Source: Sandy Macnab, Sherman County

No, we are not talking about a new class of white wheat. There is a phenomenon that sometimes occurs in winter wheat and barley known as albinism. Infected plants stand out in stark contrast because they do indeed, turn white. You may have seen some small albino plants in your fields this spring. Plant leaves may look like they are suffering from Russian Wheat Aphid damage, the cause is unknown. The number of infected plants is low and not likely to affect yield even though these albino plants will die before they have the chance to produce seed. Albinism affects winter cereals but is not evident until the spring.