

## *Before sowing*

By Brian Arnall

As most of the state is recovering and recouping from the 2010 harvest, it's already time to start planning for the 2010 wheat and canola sowing season. My first suggestion is to start collecting soil samples from any fields that have not been sampled in the last 3 years. Time is of the essence, especially if you are in an area that tends to have acidic soils. Lime is a slow acting soil amendment that takes weeks/months to increase the soil pH. To have the best soil environment for the seeds to germinate in, lime needs to be applied and incorporated months in advance of sowing. It is also beneficial to know the level of phosphorous and potassium so that fertilization can be planned accordingly. This is also

the right time to start planning for your N-Rich Strips. Once again we saw the N-Rich Strips pay dividends across the state. In south west Oklahoma the strips were very visible this year. Why? The good environment provided the perfect opportunity to make exceptional yields. How often is a 50 bushel wheat cut on dryland dual purpose fields in Gould? The strips also saved a lot



N-Rich Strip/Ramp south of Gould on Heath Beanland's farm.

of money for a producer near Burlington who decreased top-dress N rates. The lack of rain cut into his yield potential, and his normally well fertilized fields (60 bushel yield goal) yielded 50 bushel with very little top-dress N (12 lb N /ac). His traditional top-dress application of 45 lb N ac yielded 50 bushel. Of the eight large scale SBNRC (sensor based N rate calculator) trials this year, the SBNRC rate did as well or better than the producer's rate at 7 of the 8 sites. At current grain and N prices, the SBNRC

rate had an \$11.00 per acre advantage. Results are posted on [NPK.okstate.edu](http://NPK.okstate.edu), protein results will be added soon. There is no reason not to apply N-Rich strips in every single field this coming season. You do not have to use a GreenSeeker™ sensor

for the strips to be beneficial. Remember if you see the strips you need to fertilize, if you don't you need to be doing something besides fertilizing. However, the GreenSeeker™ sensor used with the SBNRC does tell you how much N you need to apply.

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