Putting out your Reference Strips

Do pick a location that best represents the entire field.
Can put strips in multiple areas of the field.
Don't place the strip in the best or worst part of the field.

Do put out the strips at or before sowing.
Can be put out up to one month after sowing (Wheat only).
Don't wait until mid December to put them out.

Do apply preplant fertilizer, approx. 40 lbs N/ac (grain only) and 80 lbs N/ac (dual purpose).
Can band fertilizer with seed and reduce preplant rate.
Don't skip applying preplant unless soil test N is high.

Sensing Reference Strips

Do try to sense as close to hollow stem as possible.
Can sense earlier if days where GDD's > 0 are > 80.
Don't sense early if there has been little forage produced.

Do use the sensor for the most accurate N rate prescription.
Can use visual determination is use the N-Ramps.
Don't waste money by not apply N-Rich Strips or N-Ramps.

When Grazing

Do pull the cattle off two weeks before sensing.
Can fence off the area around the strips two weeks prior.
Don't pull off the cattle and sense the same day.

Do's and Don'ts of using N-Rich Strips and N-Ramps

Oklahoma State University
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

Reference Strips: N-Rich Strips or N-Ramps applied as a reference for sensor based N recommendations.

N-Rich Strip: A strip through the field that has enough nitrogen applied to guarantee non N-limited conditions.

N-Ramp: Small nitrogen rate study placed in the field as a strip, can use sensor or visual determination.

GDD>0: The number of days since planting where temperatures were warm enough for the wheat to grow. Calculated on the NUE.OKSTATE.EDU web site.

Brian Arnall: b.arnall@okstate.edu Office: 405.744.1722
Bill Raun: bill.raun@okstate.edu Office: 405.744.6418