



Windbreak Award

This year's winner of the Windbreak award is Jerry and Joann Riemann, for their project that has been put in around their farmstead.

This award is selected on the following criteria:

- a. The primary purpose of the windbreak(s) will be to provide protection from damaging winds for residential (or other structures) areas, livestock, or fields.
- b. The original windbreak must consist of planted trees or shrubs. Volunteer trees shrubs may be utilized to increase density, fill in gaps, or otherwise supplement the original planted trees and shrubs.
- c. The plants must be managed and in healthy condition with no significant gaps in the windbreaks.
- d. Windbreak location, density, and length must be adequate to provide the desired protection.
- e. Windbreaks should be a minimum of three years old.

The Riemann's windbreak was established in 2009 and is north east of Dighton.

For those that have not taken a look at the windbreak they have established, it shows a lot of potential. The break is made up of 2 parts, one to protect the farm, and the other for livestock protection.

The tree rows are made up of both trees and shrubs. The north row consists of cotoneaster shrubs, and the next 3 rows are eastern red cedars.

To get the windbreak started, weed barrier was put down prior to planting, along with a drip irrigation system. After the trees were planted, grass was even seeded between the rows.

The trees started out as small seedlings between 6 inches and a foot tall, and have now grown to about 4 feet in height. Keeping some of the seedlings alive during the ongoing drought was one of the biggest challenges, as some had to be replanted 3 different times.

The biggest benefits they have seen so far have been the fact that the tree rows have been able to catch some snow. They hope to see more benefit by actually slowing down some wind in about 10 years when the trees are taller.

Jerry mentioned that they look forward to doing more tree planting, hopefully this spring.

Will you please welcome Jerry and Joann Riemann to accept this award.