

2015 Windbreak Award – Lester & Beverly Bockelman

The Windbreak Award was presented to Lester and Beverly Bockelman, for the windbreak 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 Bockelman's windbreak was established in 1991 and is northeast of Dighton. When they first began working on the project, Lester and Beverly were wanting to establish a nice windbreak to not only slow down the wind and snow from reaching the house, but to also protect their various fowl. As they have raised chickens, guinea, and even peacock.

The tree rows are made up of both trees and shrubs, and is almost L shaped wrapping around the farm yard. The windbreak is made up of 2 rows of eastern red cedar and 1 row of Russian olive. To get the windbreak started, Lester tilled the area to break the ground and make a smooth planting bed getting the initial weeds under control. A drip line was installed and run for the first two years after planting the seedlings. Throughout the first several years, the chickens helped to control the weeds. The trees started as bare root seedlings between 6 inches and a foot tall, and have grown to over 20 feet tall. The guinea now spend a lot of time around them throughout the summer months, which now helps to control the grass and weeds.