



Windbreak Award – Brian and Brooke Leighty (Leety)

This year's winner of the Windbreak award is Brian and Brooke Leighty, for their tree project that has been put in north of their feed pens at their home east of Dighton.

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 Leighty's windbreak was started roughly 4-5 years ago.

For those that have not taken a look at the windbreak they have established, they have put a lot of work into it over the last few years. When they first began working on the project, Brian said they wanted to provide bird habitat along with providing a windbreak for the cattle.

The tree rows are made up of both trees and shrubs and stretches roughly 400-500 feet. The north side is made up of around 50 sandhill plums. While the south 2 rows are around 100 Eastern Red Cedars.

To get the windbreak started, Brian first tilled the ground to prep for planting, then plastic weed barrier was put down to help keep the grass and weeds under control. A water line was trenched to add a drip line to keep the trees watered.

The trees started from being only 18 inches and have grown to be 5-7 feet tall. Now that the trees seem to be growing well, Brian has focused his efforts to keeping the weeds down, mowing, and watering.

The biggest benefits they have seen from the windbreak, has been the increase in wildlife around the planting. The windbreak has also provided protection to the nearby livestock.

Will you please welcome Brian and Brook Leighty to accept this award!