

Windbreak Award



This year's winner of the Windbreak award is Merle and Janis Foos.

The awards are 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 windbreak was established in 2003 and is several miles north east of Dighton. The break is 2 different tree rows, one located along the road and the other follows the creek around the corner. The windbreak was established because the trees along the creek were dying and they wanted to protect their cattle.

The tree rows are made up of both trees and shrubs, such as, eastern red cedars which are the most obvious, but also fragrant sumac, American plum, and choke cherry. To get the windbreak started, weed barrier was put in before planting, and water was hauled in. The trees started out as small seedlings between 6 inches and a foot tall, and have now grown some to over 10 feet tall.

The biggest benefit they have seen has been the protection of the cattle from the harsh winds and winters.