

Loughrys get windbreak award

By VERONICA MONIER

Phillip and Gerry Loughry were chosen to receive the 2005 Kansas Bankers Association Windbreak Award.

The Loughrys planted their first windbreak just north of their home in the spring of 1970, using the dirt that surrounded the original rock house on the property. The old house was built into an embankment and after moving the dirt, added on to the original rock house.

Phillip said the windbreak was maybe five or six feet tall within five years of planting it. Back then, he said, they didn't have water systems and had to hand carry water to the trees for the first several years.

A heavy snow storm in 1987 broke a lot of branches and this summer they lost a couple big trees and six small ones.

The north windbreak was originally planted with two rows of cedar, a row of mulberry and a row of hackberry. Now the windbreak is mainly cedar. Phillip said they lost the hackberry in the first four years and also only have a few mulberries left, losing them recently.

Because the north windbreak is established, it requires very little maintenance, he said. Basically, he said, all they really need to do is trim the dead branches.

The west windbreak is a more recent addition. Phillip said they planted it in 2002 to shelter their livestock.

He said 239 evergreen trees — three rows of red cedar — were planted. They lost 26 the

following spring, but in the years after only lost two and then six.

"But," he said, "without the water/drip system, all of them would have been lost in the drought."

The drip system, he said, connects to a hydrant in the summer and is drained in the winter.

Plastic was put around the trees in the west windbreak, which helps to keep the weeds down. The Loughrys planted sod in between the rows of trees and that helps keep the weeds away as well.

The west windbreak is still young enough that they continue to water it in the summer, he said.

Sometime soon, he said they hope to plant another windbreak on the north side of the property.

In addition to running about 200 head of stock cattle, the Loughrys plant wheat, milo, corn, soybeans and feed. The cattle are fed near the west windbreak, which the cows also use for calving.

The Loughrys have 4,270 acres of farm and grass land. They rent 1,030 acres and own 3,240 acres. They live on the corner of Road B and W-2.

Come help honor Phillip and Gerry Loughry at the Norton County Conservation District's Annual Meeting this Saturday, Jan. 21., at the Norton American Legion. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.



Gerry and Phillip Loughry were chosen as this year's recipients of the Kansas Bankers Association Windbreak Award. The Loughrys will be honored this Saturday at the Norton County Conservation District's annual meeting. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier



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