

# Soil conservation honors farmer for windbreaks

By ERICA BRADLEY

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Dave and Gail Brandyberry won this year's Kansas Bankers Windbreak Award for the seven windbreaks on their farm near Lenora.

According to the conservation office, farmers plant windbreaks on the north and west sides of their home to protect against wind and other elements, which reduces utility bills. Many farmers also plant windbreaks to protect their land from soil erosion.

The Brandyberrys have planted thousands of trees on their property. He said 1,000 trees were planted last year.

Most of the trees are Austrian, although some are Ponderosa trees.

"We started planting trees in 1992," Brandyberry said.

He said his wife takes care of the trees and planted most of them.

"She's the one who takes care of them," he said.

Brandyberry said some years there has been little moisture. One year there was an 1.25 inches of moisture, including snow, sleet, rain and hail.

"We're lucky we saved any of them," he said.

His advice to people who want to start planting trees is to not do it during a drought.

The Brandyberrys run B-Bar-K Tree Service and can be hired to plant trees.

He said one year they went to Graham County and planted an estimated 70,000 trees.

Brandyberry wasn't sure how long it took to plant the trees in Graham County but thought it took two to three weeks.

He said the trees have survived, although there were several re-plants.

B-Bar-K Tree Service can be reached at (785) 567-4628.



One of the windbreaks at the Brandyberry farm protected the property from blowing snow during the last storm. Windbreaks are used to protect homes and property from soil erosion as well as weather.


—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley



The Brandyberrys planted two windbreaks on their property last year. Dave said the Austrian trees have sprung up while the Ponderosa Pine have been slow to grow.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley


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