

Father, son snare Windbreak Award

dirt on the roots, he said.

Tubbs said he prepared the soil surrounding the perimeter of the farmstead and dug holes with a three-point digger he had borrowed from Don Woofter. He planted a pickup load of 440 trees in a staggered four-tier pattern in only two days.

Watering the small trees was done through a drip system, and as a family project, the grandkids helped carry water to the new little trees.

Out of the 440 trees, Tubbs said, they lost just one. He planted a replacement grove of 23 trees, but has had to use only one. Although the trees are mature, he maintains the windbreak with supplemental watering with impact sprinklers used to water the grassy areas of the farmyard.

Before the windbreak grew, Tubbs said, he could see Colby, Goodland and Bird City across the flat plains surrounding the farm, which is about 15 miles northwest of Levant. The trees have grown to 30-40 feet and are totally dense, enhancing their ability to protect the farm's land.

"A great time to plant a windbreak was 20 to 40 years ago ...," he said, "but it's always a good time to plant a tree in western Kansas."

Tubbs said his family doesn't feel the 30 to 40 mile per hour winds that can whip up on the plains, and the farmstead is never buried by huge snow drifts because of the protection provided by the trees.

"What I really enjoy," he said, "is all the wildlife I see Besides pheasants, I see coyotes, wild turkeys, crows, porcupines, foxes, whooping cranes, sandhill cranes and raccoons.... God has blessed this place, and we've had a lot of good times here."

T and T Farms is a dryland wheat operation where they use summer fallow and sweep tillage to keep residue on top of the ground to conserve moisture, Tubbs said. Most of

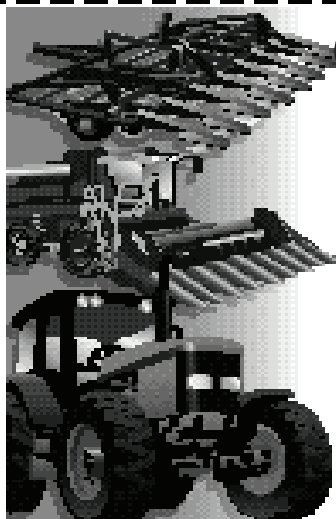


VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press
The 440-tree windbreak (above) surrounding the Gerald Tubbs Jr. farmstead, 15 miles northwest of Levant, protects the home area from 30 to 40 mph winds common on the High Plains. Gerald Tubbs Sr. (right) sat on the steps of the original Tubbs farm home. An old two-bottom plow sits as a reminder of many years of hard labor that has turned the farm into a place of beauty.

the land is flat, with only a few acres needing terraces.

Tubbs said two sons, Jeff (Lezley) Tubbs and Nick Tubbs, a daughter Christie (Troy) Cersovsky, who all live in the Colby area, daughter Jennifer Harold, in Abilene.

The windbreak has been a family affair since its beginning, he said, and the Tubbs family will be at the annual meeting of the Thomas County Conservation District on Monday to be recognized for the vision of a windbreak that became a perfect reality.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE 2009
SOIL
CONSERVATION
WINNERS!**

Colby Lumber
1760 West 4th * 785-462-2181

CERSOVSKY INSURANCE

FARM HOME AUTO BUSINESS LIFE CROP



"Customer Service is Our Policy"

CINDY L. CERSOVSKY

370 N Franklin • P.O. Box 310 • Colby
785-462-7544 • Toll Free 888-462-7544