



Planting windbreak like watching family grow

WINDBREAK, from Page 4

in July. “We had just finished wheat harvest.” Carol said they finished the last of the corn harvest by Thanksgiving. The last day they finished while the ground was still frozen.

Robin said he plants the wheat varieties Jagger and Winterhawk and several different varieties of corn, depending on where it will be planted. He said with good soil samples he knows the right amount of fertilizer to use for each crop.

He hauls his crops to the elevator and his high moisture corn to the feedlot after harvesting.

“By Sept. 15, I start planting wheat and I plant my corn around April 10,” he said. The soil temperature needs to be around 50 degrees for corn to come up. The corn needs so many days of a certain temperature to produce a crop. The different varieties vary on how long it will

take for the crop.

“In the last 10 years there have been a lot of changes in farming,” said Robin. “We have better seed, herbicides and machines that do more work in less time. Farming is still not completely automated.

“Auto track is pretty neat,” he said. That is where the tractor uses a satellite to go down a straight line in the field.

“There will always be water but it may be expensive to use,” he said. “Some wells may not be dry but do not pump enough gallons to pay.”

He said It is tough for young farmers to start . He said the average age of a farmer is 55.

The Deeds said they were thinking about planting more trees this year so the windbreak would be U shaped instead of L shaped.

“Mother Nature makes or breaks a farmer,” Robin said..

Robin Deeds plants one of the 385 pines in the windbreak he and his family planted after they bought the Raymond and Berniece Peter’s place in 1995 north of Edson. Before planting old Chinese Elms were pulled out. A drip watering system and weed barrier were put down before the trees were planted.

Photo from the Deeds family

Let’s talk Western Resource, Conservation and Development

By Sandra Rodgers

Western Prairie RC&D President

Maybe you are wondering what that should mean to you. Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Wallace and Logan Counties are all members and served by the Western Prairie RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development Council). There are 12 RC&D areas in the State of Kansas. Three are waiting authorization.

Resource Conservation and Development Councils are the leadership entity associated with RC&D areas. The Councils help plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development and enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities.

RC&D Council members are volunteers. Councils work in partnership with USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service through a Federal coordinator. Duane Cheney is the Federal Coordinator for the Western Prairie RC&D office and is located at 915 East Walnut in Colby.

Because RC&D areas are locally organized, sponsored and led, the program provides an

ideal way for residents to join together to decide what is best for their community. RC&D Councils identify and address unmet needs in local communities.



Rodgers

Western Prairie RC&D Projects addressing Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development and Land Management include: the Logan County OWLS site, which is an outdoor wildlife learning site used for educational purposes; the Republican River Riparian Restoration Partnership, which is an effort to plan across state lines for watershed protection and restoration; the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter located in Goodland; the Rawlins County High Plains Youth Entrepreneur Fair; the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Hub; the Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance, a group of conservation District Managers from eight counties that organize educational activities each year for all ages; the Fort Wallace Museum and micro loans made financing available for businesses in Cheyenne and Decatur Counties .

For more information on the Western Prairie RC&D contact your Sherman County representatives Sandra Rodgers and Greg Nemechek.

District poster, limerick, essay contest winners

Sherman County Conservation District poster, limerick and essay contest winners

Posters 3rd and 4th grade

1st Blaine Sederstrom
2nd Kit Boyington
3rd Ryan Lalicker
Honorable mention Ethan Wolf and Wence Hendrich

Posters 5th and 6th grade

1st Tristan Cooper
2nd Sianna Miller
3rd Saige Vandiver
Honorable mention Lindsey Geeska and Logan Perryman

Limericks 3rd and 4th grade

1st Emily Smith
2nd Hannah Mickelson
3rd Mikayla Stoffel
Honorable mention Christopher Gamboa and Skyler Warren

Limericks 5th and 6th grade

1st Alinexis Castillo
2nd Lindsey Geeska
3rd Kyndell King
Honorable mention Luke Avila and Molly Bollig

Essays

1st Dani Mangus
2nd Cienna Brannick
3rd Savannah Bassett
Honorable mention Grace Cole

Computer Stacks

1st Rachel Mikelson
2nd Dani Mangus
3rd Quinlen Withington
Honorable mention Logan Perryman and Saige Vandiver

Congratulations to all conservation winners!



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Congratulations to Sherman County Conservation District Award Winners!

Windbreak Award
Robin and Carol Deeds

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