

# Couple receives award for Cedar tree windbreak



**DONNA AND EARNEST HUFF** stood in front of their windbreak of Cedar trees. The couple won the Windbreak Award sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association. —Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

With two rows of Cedar trees at their farmstead, Earnest and Donna Huff of rural Norcatour are the winners of the Windbreak Award, sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association.

The Huffs, who live off the Lyle Road, said they planted the windbreak north of their former home in 2001, just ahead of the drought, said Mr. Huff.

The couple bought the Cedar trees through the soil conservation office and had help from a man in Hoxie with planting them, although their son Eldon, and Terry Rippe had to reset several of them.

Then, said Mr. Huff, because of the drought, the trees had to be watered. He said he dug a trench on either side of the two rows and then filled it with water, using garden hose. The complete process would take about two weeks and then had to be started over.

It paid off, he added, as last year, was the first year the trees didn't have to be watered. Finally,

he said, the trees are tall enough.

Although they don't live in the home anymore, the windbreak protects the cattle, shop and chicken house from the weather.

Mr. Huff said the idea for the windbreak came to him one day when he stepped out the back door to do chores and north wind just went right through him.

Although Mr. Huff is retired from farming, he said he has 50 years under his belt. Over the years, he said, they had cattle, hogs and raised wheat, corn, milo and sunflowers.

Mrs. Huff said they had lots of hogs for a while and laughed, remembering having boxes of little ones in the kitchen to get them warmed up. Now, she said, she just has the chickens and sells broilers and eggs. That, along with farm cats and a dog, she said, is enough.

The Huffs have two sons Eldon, rural Lebanon, Neb., and David, who lives in Oklahoma



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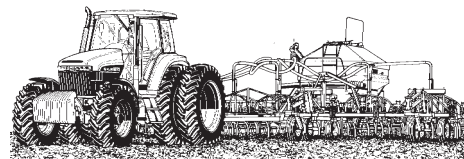
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