



KEITH AND CANDY KETTERL won this year's Kansas Bankers Association windbreak award.
—Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Red Cedar trees windbreak winner

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Keith and Candy Ketterl were selected to win the windbreak award from the Kansas Bankers Association for the soil conservation district this year.

The Ketterls, who were married in 2002, said they planted the windbreak south of the house the same year. The windbreak is made up of red cedar trees, said Mr. Ketterl, although he isn't sure how many. The trees are anywhere from two to seven feet tall.

The Ketterls said they knew the soil conservation district officers were looking at the windbreak and land but didn't know they had won an award until they received a letter from Byron Hale, extension agent.

"The drought," said Mr. Ketterl, "devastated the windbreak the past few years."

His wife added, "In the drought years, we had to haul water to the windbreak and we did lose some of the trees in those years."

They added, "The windbreak not only

protects the home, but also our cattle on our farm located around 18 miles northwest of Oberlin.

"The windbreak is good for the wildlife, too," said Mrs. Ketterl.

Mr. Ketterl said he received a soil conservation award with his brothers in the late 1990's for their farming practices.

Over the years the family has taken part in various conservation programs, said Mr. Ketterl, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for pasture land. The couple said they just completed that program, although they have continued to use the same practices after seeing how well it worked.

"With the program," said Mr. Ketterl, "we put in pipelines for water, stock tanks and a rotation system for the cattle."

Mr. Ketterl said he does have some hay and wheat on his own.

They have three kids, Alli, Ashli and Jonathan Samson.

Mr. Ketterl said he feels good about winning.

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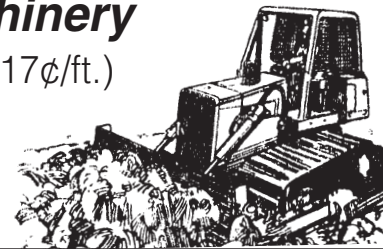
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