

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS FOR WINDBREAKS



Double El Windbreak & Living Snow Fence Cost-Share Program: The grant provides financial reimbursement cost-share assistance to landowners to install projects. All approved applications must meet Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) guidelines and specifications. Applications will be considered on a conservation ranking system. For more information call Double El CD 719-541-2359 x 101. Email: cherylsd@fairpoint.net. Deadline Jan 30th.

Conservation Reserve Program Continuous sign-up (CRP): Up to 90% cost-share is available for eligible land for field windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, grassed waterways, filter strips, contour grass strips and others. Continuous CRP Sign-up requires land to currently be in cropland. For more information or to sign-up call the Farm Service Agency, 719-541-2261 ext 2.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to farmers and ranchers that address natural resource concerns while implementing a variety of conservation practices including: Tree and shrub plantings, grass seeding; prescribed grazing, rangeland and water management; and stock water developments.

This cost-share assistance is available on all types of land uses (cropland, rangeland, etc). Approved contracts receive cost-share reimbursement for installed practices. Contact Simla Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Office 719-541-2358 x 3.

PROTECT YOUR NEWLY PURCHASED LAND FROM EROSION PROBLEMS

If you have intentions of building a home, storage building, garage, driveway or a road and you have what seem to be unnatural piles of dirt that are in the way, please seek some assistance as to the proper way to deal with these conservation practices.

Conservation Practices are tools used to eliminate, control or reduce the effects of soil erosion. In this area the erosion is usually caused by two different sources, wind and water.

Being in an area with an average annual rainfall of about 15 inches per year, you might think that soil erosion caused by water would not be an issue. The reason it is an issue is due to the type of rainfall we receive (high intensity/short duration), which means we can receive a large amount of rainfall in a short time. Since the rainfall comes faster than our soils can accept it, this leads to soil erosion. Combine that with bare ground and you will surely have a problem.

In the past, the most commonly used practices used to “curb” erosion caused by water were terraces (capture rainfall and let it soak in), diversions (direct the water to a protected outlet) and dams (designed to handle an entire storm and hold the water for other uses). Many of these practices were installed on land that was once a large parcel. Many of these large parcels have been divided and sold into smaller lots used for small scale ranching, home sites, and businesses.

When the land is developed, many of these practices are eliminated or at the very least changed in some manner. Caution needs to be taken when changing these structures so that you do not cause a new unwanted erosion problem. A quick check with NRCS or Double El/Agate Conservation District can greatly increase the chance that your “changes” will leave your land protected from water erosion issues.

**2017 OUTSTANDING SMALL ACREAGE MANAGER:
Melvin & Norma Cusic**



**We can help you accomplish the same thing. Please call for free assistance & design.
(719-541-2359 ext 101)**

WHAT CAN WINDBREAKS DO FOR YOU?

Windbreak and/or tree plantings provide many environmental benefits such as conserving energy, managing blowing and drifting snow, providing shelter for structures and livestock, attracting wildlife, providing wildlife habitats, reducing flood damage, conserving and stabilizing soil, increasing property values, and trapping winter moisture.

Properly designed windbreaks can cut energy costs as much as 20 to 40 percent. Properly placed windbreaks can reduce or eliminate snow drifts on roadways, driveways and around buildings, etc.

Most windbreaks are at least two rows or no more than 7 rows. A properly installed windbreak will begin to function as soon as the 5th year. Visit the office at 504 Washington Ave., Simla, Colorado for free assistance to help design & plan your desired windbreaks, shelterbelts and living snow fence.

SURVIVAL TIPS FOR SEEDLING TREES

- Select the correct species: Be sure to consider plant characteristics before you buy. Every tree or shrub must exist in that spot for its lifetime.
- Site preparation. Your planting will fare best if planted in freshly tilled soil that is completely free from any existing vegetation. It can be accomplished by mechanical or hand till. Minimum of four feet is recommended.
- Use mulch (either fabric polypropylene weed barrier or wood chips). Although mulch can be the most expensive feature of your tree planting, it is extremely important to plant survival. Mulch reduces competition, reduces maintenance, and stores moisture by reducing soil evaporation. Dark fabric mulches store solar heat and transfer that heat to the soil, which in turn encourages earlier and longer root growth. Mulch can greatly increase survival rates.
- Eliminate competing vegetation by mowing, physical removal, herbicidal spray or installation of fabric mulch/weed barrier.

Website: www.conservation4you.org