

## 2009 WINDBREAK AWARD WINNERS



**Monty & Kimberly Stilwell**

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***Sponsored by Morris County Farm Bureau Association***



Windbreaks are a valuable asset on farms, and ranches. These windbreaks reduce the wind velocity and reduce heating costs in the home. Some estimate 15 to 25 percent savings for the home. Morris County windbreak award winners Monty and Kimberly Stilwell know this well. They and their children Hannah, Parker, and new baby daughter Lilliana Kristine, are enjoying the benefits of a windbreak.

Monty has been involved in planting two windbreaks. He helped plant the windbreak located at his parent's home, Larry and Carol Stilwell. He has also planted another one at his and Kimberly's current home.

The windbreak at Larry and Carol's farmstead was planted in the 1970's by Larry and Monty. The north wind blew across the hills with nothing to slow it down, the home needed protection. The windbreak was planted just north of the home and is now about 30 feet high. It was planted to cedar trees which provide dense foliage. Along with protecting the home, the windbreak extends to the east and provides protection for cattle. This improves animal health, and reduces feed energy requirements.

In 1982 Monty planted more trees in this windbreak. Again cedar trees were planted. Cedars provide good protection and are a very durable tree. All the trees in this windbreak were hand dug from local pastures in the area. This was a lot of work. The trees were watered some, but not too much. The Stilwells will tell you that cedars don't like too much water. The survival rate on these trees was very good.

When Monty and Kimberly moved to their new home, they knew that they needed a windbreak for protection. They planted one north and west of the home. Again they used cedar trees hand dug from local pastures. The trees were 4 feet tall when they were dug up. Monty had a good root wad with each tree. He had to roll them into the bucket of the tractor, which would carry 4 at a time. After planting, the trees were watered some. After 11 years, the trees are 10 to 15 feet tall, and look great. Monty says they already feel a difference in the wind.

As mentioned, the cedar tree is durable, but one of the things that can kill them is the bag worm. The larvae feed and strip the tree of foliage. Monty and Larry check the trees to see if control of the bag worms is needed. They don't spray the trees every year, but spray as needed to control the worms.

The windbreaks are important to the Stilwells. The windbreaks provide protection for both homes. The trees have been well cared for and it shows.

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*Monty & Kimberly Stilwell*