



Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Farmstead Windbreaks



Do You Have Problems With:

- Cold winter winds around the home or farmstead
- High heating costs
- Drifting snow
- Blowing dust & debris
- High exterior building maintenance needs or cost

Purposes and Benefits of Farmstead Windbreaks

- A well-designed windbreak will block driving winds and reduce the wind chill
- Windbreaks can reduce heating costs
- With aesthetics in mind during the designing phase, windbreaks can add value to home and property
- Serve as dust and odor screens
- Outside building maintenance costs can be reduced by reducing the “sand blasting” effects of the wind
- Serve as living snow fences to reduce blowing snow
- By providing feeding, nesting, and shelter habitat, windbreaks can attract wildlife
- Tree planting can add variety to the landscape

Associated Costs

The cost to apply this practice will depend on what is the current vegetation. This will drive the establishment and management of the windbreak. The major costs associated with establishing a windbreak system are:

- Site preparation
- Tree planting
- Herbaceous weed control
- Pesticides
- Irrigation System
- Protection from livestock and wildlife



Windbreaks can provide you with options to manage issues with energy among others.



Windbreaks help reduce wind and snow that would erode the soil, and winter snowdrifts would accumulate in greater quantities on and around the immediate fields.

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Technical and Financial Assistance

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you develop a Conservation Plan to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on your land and improve the long-term health of your operation.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply contact your local office to set up an appointment. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

For More Information

Visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service or visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find your local NRCS office. You can also check with your local USDA Service Center, then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.



NRCS partner assisting small scale farmer with developing a customized conservation plan. Photo by Erica Quinlan.

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