

# create multiple windbreaks around rural home

in order to keep the trees from having to compete with the weeds.”

She said the family spent a lot of time pulling hoses around to water the young trees, but in time, after the trees had gotten off to a good start, they planted buffalo and blue gramma grasses for wildlife habitat.

“The grasses help to choke out the weeds,” Cheney said.

As the trees grew and became more of the wind break protection they had envisioned, she said, they planted even more trees, following the curve of the circle cornfield that adjoined the farmstead. She said planting in a circle to follow the corn rows helped make it easier to turn farm machinery in the field.

Next came swirls of Austrian, ponderosa and Scotch pines planted closer to the house for landscape appeal and to double as protection from the weather.

Cheney said she must have been bitten by the tree-planting bug because she almost didn't know when to stop. She said she finally lost count of how many trees she has planted over the years.

Now, it's time to start replanting between rows to ensure windbreak protection for years to come as a benefit to future generations.

She said she and her husband have

found the trees to be really helpful for their garden market business, Sharing the Bounty, as he plants many of their vegetables plots among the trees, where the ground is fertile and mellow.

“We added wildlife-bundle shrubs and see lots of birds, deer and other wildlife enjoying the cover in that area,” Cheney added.

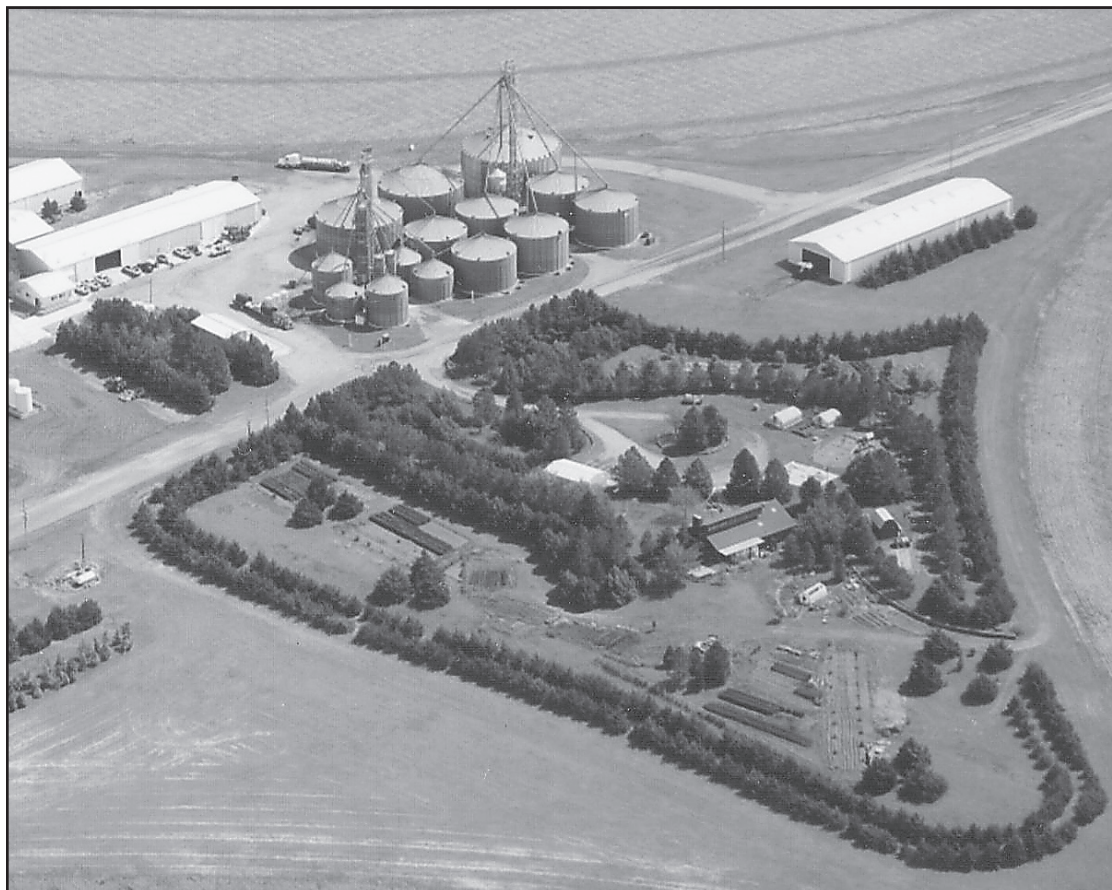
Wildlife bundles are groupings of shrubbery planted to target certain species with feeding and watering stations and varieties of shrubbery best suited as a habitat for each.

She said all the hard work and enjoyment of growing trees had definitely been worth it.

“Now that the trees are of good size,” she said, “the wind doesn't feel so cold in the winter, and growing flowers and vegetables is much easier, too.”

She remarked that during winter when the pines are covered in snow, you can almost forget you are in Kansas instead of the Colorado mountains.

Cheney said she appreciates the recognition from the Thomas County Conservation District for the hard work that goes in to planting and caring for trees. She added that she heartily encourages everyone to plant more trees.



The Cheney family's painstakingly-grown windbreaks, seen here from the air, include several varieties of pine trees such as Austrian, ponderosa and Scotch as well as deciduous trees.



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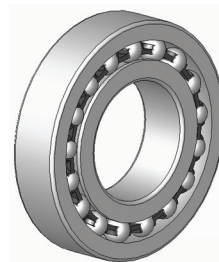


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