

Funds available to establish shelterbelts

A shelterbelt is an area that has been planted to trees and shrubs. Because of prevailing winter winds, the shelterbelt becomes most beneficial to the landowner when located on the north and west sides of rural farmsteads or feedlots. Throughout the year, the shelterbelt benefits people and wildlife in a variety of ways. During the winter, tree and shrub planting may reduce home energy consumption by up to 36 percent. It can also increase feed conversion by livestock and greatly reduce snow accumulation around farm buildings. In summer, shelterbelts provide beauty to the farmstead area while enhancing prop-

erty values. Throughout the year, shelterbelts provide countless form of wildlife with critical winter shelter and breeding habitat.

A cooperator will receive 75 percent of the cost of shelterbelt establishment, not to exceed \$1600, if planted according to DNR planting specifications. Expansion of existing shelterbelts to at least 8 rows will be at 75% of the actual cost not to exceed \$200 per row. A 14 row shelterbelt is the maximum size that will be cost shared.

For information on how to apply for funds, stop by the Soil Conservation office in Wapello today.