



June 18, 2004

### **HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR TREE PLANS**

I had an opportunity to participate in the 99.5 KUTT Radio Yard and Garden Show on Friday morning, June 18th, at the Crete True Value Hardware store, sponsored by Dan Papik. Larry Germer, Extension Educator in Gage County, does the show every Friday, normally in the studio in Fairbury. Because Larry was out-of-state, his counterpart Paul Hay, Extension Educator in Gage County, sat in along with yours truly and special guest Steve Karloff. Steve is an Extension Forester at UNL. The main topic of the day was trees.

It is important to know that Steve survived the budget cutting process at UNL last year and continues to help citizens across Southeast Nebraska. Routinely, Steve mentioned he develops about 15 comprehensive tree plans each year for acreage and farm owners throughout the District. To the tornado victims or to people that received extensive damage in their farmstead windbreaks, Steve is an excellent resource for us locally that will draw up new tree plans for the farm or acreage. He also can share advice about the need for diversity in our plans when starting all over.

Steve talked about the Scotch Pine wilt problems in Southeast Nebraska which are thinning Scotch Pines, a non-native tree. We also talked about the opportunity that landowners have to diversify the types of trees that will be on the farm or acreage in the future. Many of our farmsteads hit by the tornado had a lot of Cottonwood and Siberian Elm. Now homeowners in the midst of devastation can diversify the types of species of trees and begin a farmstead or acreage windbreak that will be more functional for them.

Many times you are money ahead by going with seedlings from the Natural Resource District and in 4 to 5 years these trees can catch up to larger trees. With that in mind, you often can observe that large diameter trees balled and burlaped or large container grown trees, due to root shock, will not be off to a fast start. Young, healthy seedling trees begin to catch up.

Steve is available to do tree plans for people hit hard by our storms. You can call him directly and schedule an appointment. He also works with windbreak renovation plans and will share his ideas on windbreak renewal.

Farmers do an excellent job of knowing what they do best but many do not know about veneer quality walnut, board feet of oak or value of trees. Steve can work with you directly on timber management plans, mark trees that are of value and discuss marketing trees of value. He will list marketable trees in a statewide newsletter that goes out to timber buyers when working with area landowners.

Trees are the last thing on people's minds right now but we will be quickly reminded of their true value this summer and winter. This summer is an excellent time to get to know an Extension Forester by the name of Steve Karloff. Steve's e-mail is [skarloff1@unl.edu](mailto:skarloff1@unl.edu) or give Steve a call directly at (402) 472-3645. Tornadoes do bring new opportunities and better trees and a tree plan for the future of the farm or acreage could be one of those opportunities.



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