K-State Extension District Forester John Klempa talks to area producers about what options they have in terms of financial assistance for building and managing windbreaks Thursday evening at a workshop in the Plains Community Building. Dr. Charles Barden, an Extension forester, also discussed some tips for renovating windbreaks. L&T photo/Robert Pierce

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times It's a well-known fact that the wind blows in Southwest Kansas, and with breezes that can sometimes move as fast as 60 to 70 miles per hour, the effects of that moving air can be somewhat devastating.

Those effects, however, can be lessened in rural areas with the use of windbreaks, and two K-State officials discussed how to renovate the rows of vegetation, as well as some of the financial assistance for managing them, at a workshop Thursday in Plains sponsored by K-State Research and Extension.

Dr. Charles Barden, a forester with the Extension, spoke first about some of the renovation projects that have been done in the area as well as some tips for maintaining them.

"Windbreaks are an integral part of many farms and ranches and provide critical protection for farmsteads, livestock and crops," he said.

Unfortunately, Barden said many windbreaks planted in the 1930s and 1940s are losing their effectiveness due to age, poor health or neglect, so much so that the windbreak no longer has the necessary density to provide winter protection.

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