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Natural Resources District

NEWS RELEASE

October 7, 2011

For Immediate Release

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Tri-Basin NRD Names Smith Winner of Tree Planter Award

Dr. Thomas Smith of Holdrege was awarded Tri-Basin Natural Resources District's Tree Planter Award for 2011 at their biennial banquet in Holdrege on January 13. Smith and his family were chosen for the award because of their extensive, long-term plan for planting trees on their property. Tri-Basin NRD presented the Smith family with a plaque and a yard sign in recognition of their accomplishments.

Smiths initially planted walnut and oak trees on broad areas of their hillsides to attract wildlife. They have also planted Southwestern, Limber and Ponderosa pines along with Blue Spruce in shelterbelts. They disked brome grass under and replanted between the shelterbelts with native grass varieties. The native grasses provide cover and food sources for game birds and songbirds. The Smiths are also using Eastern Redcedar as a screen and shelterbelt on their riverfront property.