Windbreak Site Visit Guide

The purpose of the windbreak site visit is to gather information that will be used to make management recommendations that help the landowner meet their windbreak goals.

1. Goals
   What are the landowner’s goals for the windbreak?
   Are their goals realistic?

2. Function
   What was the original purpose of the windbreak?
   Is the windbreak still needed for this purpose?
   How well is the windbreak performing?

3. Appearance
   Do the trees and shrubs appear healthy?
   Is the condition variable from row to row?
   Are the dead trees and/or shrubs distributed throughout or localized to one spot in the windbreak?

4. Species
   What species are present and what is their condition?

5. Age
   When was the windbreak planted?
   Is there natural regeneration occurring?
   What species are regenerating?

6. Cultural Practices
   Is there evidence that cattle or other livestock have been in the windbreak?
   Are the trees appropriately spaced?
   Has the weed barrier fabric been managed properly?
   Is the windbreak adjacent to a field in annual crop production?

7. Damaging Events
   Has the windbreak been subject to an extreme event such as a flood, fire or high wind event?

8. Site Limitations
   What are the characteristics of the site that might limit windbreak potential?

9. Landowner
   What experience does the landowner have with windbreak renovation?
   What resources do they have available (friends, family, equipment, time?)
   Are they open to suggestions or do they have a renovation plan firmly in mind?
   If the landowner has a renovation plan in mind, what additional considerations should they be aware of?
   Are there alternatives they should consider?