

County is treasure trove of wind energy

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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A new kind of harvest is spreading across the state that replaces planters and combines with turbines and transmission lines.

Just up the road, the Broken Bow Wind project is poised to fire up turbines in the next few weeks.

Closer to home, construction of the Dawson County Wind Farm—spanning about 15,000 acres between Highway 21 south of Lexington and Highway 47 south of Gothenburg—is getting closer.

Officials of developer Geronimo Wind Energy met with landowners recently to bring them up to date on the project and told them they hope to get an agreement in 2015 to sell power generated from the farm.

Construction would then begin.

Geronimo leases property where turbines and transmission lines will be constructed.

Project manager Jordan Burmeister said landowners are expected to earn about \$600,000 in lease royalties, totaling about \$12 million during a 20-year period.

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DAWSON WIND FARM

Once operational, the Dawson County Farm is expected to:

- Have between 33-48 wind turbines
- Provide about \$150 million of new infrastructure and significantly improve existing infrastructure
- Generate 100 megawatts of power which is the equivalent of about 20,000 homes
- Bring about 75 construction workers to the area for six months and provide five to 10 long-term operations and maintenance jobs
- Displace about 250,000 tons of carbon dioxide yearly