



## 1.0 General

There are many ways to influence the wind that carries tons of blowing and drifting snow. Periodically, severe winter storms will create large snow drifts that close roads and driveways, isolate farmsteads and increase snowplowing. Many of these drifting problems happen in the same place year after year. Although there are no foolproof methods of wind and snow control, strategically placed standing corn row snow fences can reduce or eliminate drifting problems in many locations.

“National research has found that it costs 100 times more to plow snow than to trap it with a snow fence.”  
Source: Strategic Highway Research Program.

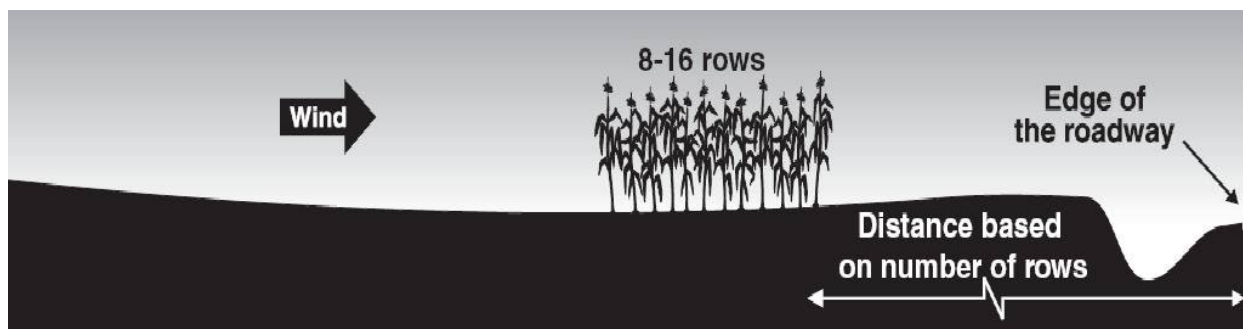
## 2.0 Benefits of Standing Corn Row Snow Fence

### Public benefits of standing corn row snow fence:

- Reduces blowing and drifting snow on roadways.
- Stores snow at low cost
- Reduces the accident rate during snowy, windy conditions.
- Creates safer travel conditions.
- Decreases freezing and thawing effects on the roadway.
- Lowers snow removal cost.

### Benefits to landowners:

- Improves winter access to farmsteads and rural areas.
- Helps reduce soil erosion.
- Provides a service to your community.
- Conserves wildlife
- Can increase yield by retaining moisture and reducing drying effects of the wind.



## 3.0 Standing Corn Row Snow Fence Requirements

- Standing corn snow fence located 75-150 feet from the edge of pavement must consist of at least 12 rows.
- Corn must be planted parallel to the roadway.
- Landowner must take precautions to prevent livestock from entering area and damaging standing corn.
- Landowner may hand pick the corn, but the stalks must remain intact throughout lease period which ends on March 15th. (In the past, landowners have arranged to have service organizations pick the corn by hand and

sell it to benefit their organizations. Events such as this may be tax deductible and also offers a community service for the area.)

- Area of standing corn cannot be disturbed until after March 15th.

#### **4.0 Compensation**

- WisDOT will pay \$150 per 100ft of standing corn (prorated for partial stations).

#### **5.0 Identifying Potential Location**

- The region maintenance staff should review locations where drifting has been an ongoing problem.
- Once a location is identified an “invitation to participate letter” and [“Wisconsin Flyer”](#) should be prepared and mailed or hand delivered to the land owner.

#### **6.0 Program Participation**

##### **Processing requests for participation in program:**

- After receiving a request to participate, the region should:
  1. Prepare an “agreement” DT2177.
  2. Mail or hand-deliver the value finding worksheet, agreement, and taxpayer identification form to the landowner.
- Upon receiving signed forms back from the landowner, the region should send the signed forms to the State Maintenance Engineer in the bureau of highway maintenance. A copy should be kept in region records.
- A picture should be taken of each location under contract by the region area assistants during the winter season.

##### **Required forms:**

- Invitation to participate letter.
- Agreement
- [Wisconsin Flyer](#)
- Taxpayer Identification Form