



## 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.

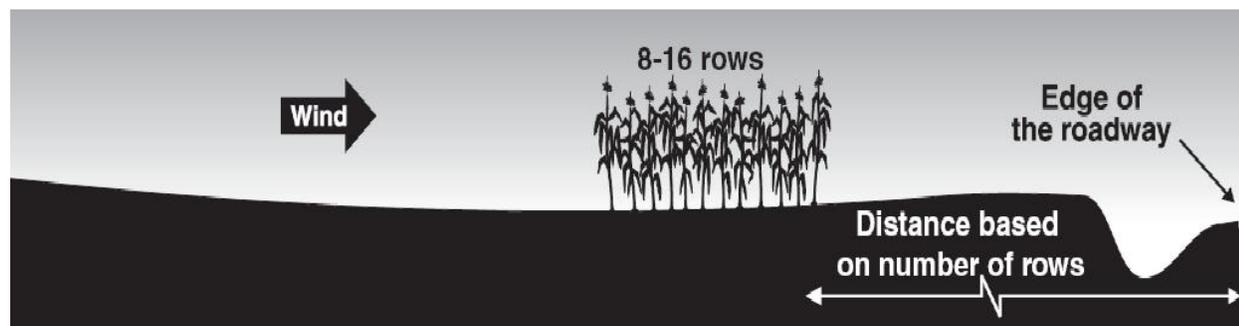
## 2.0 Benefits of Standing Corn Row Snow Fence

### 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 50 – 100 feet from the edge of pavement must consist of at least 16 rows. Standing corn windbreaks located 100 or more feet from the edge of pavement must consist of at least 12 rows. Standing corn windbreaks must be setback a minimum of 200 feet from the edge of pavement for windbreaks with 8-11 rows.
- Corn must be planted parallel to the roadway.
- Land owner must take precautions to prevent livestock from entering area and damaging standing corn.

- Land owner 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 \$0.50 more per bushel than the bushel price used at the time of the agreement signing.
- A private signed contract for the corn which provides a per bushel price may be used as a basis of payment rather than the unit price methods described below. A copy of the contract should be provided to the department as justification.
- All agreements made from December 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> will be honored based on the previous year's July price for the county the corn is located in. The price per bushel is determined based on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- All July 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup> agreements will be determined based on the current bushel price at the local mill. The local mill is defined as where the agreement party typically takes their grain or the current NASS price for the county the corn is located in; whichever is higher.

#### **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 "value finding" worksheet DT2176
  2. Prepare an "agreement" DT2177
  3. Mail or hand-deliver the value finding worksheet, agreement, and taxpayer identification form to the land owner.
- Upon receiving signed forms back from the land owner, 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