

Wisconsin's Standing Corn Row Snow Fence Program

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Revised 01-26-2024

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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 areas.

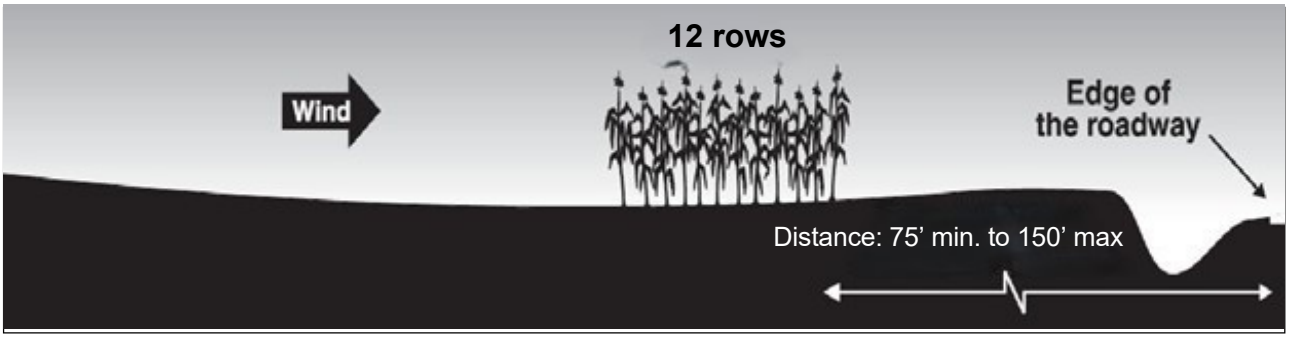
"National research has found that it costs 100 times more to plow snow than to trap it with a snow fence." **Source:** Strategic Highway Research Program.

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
- Increases visibility

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



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Standing corn row snow fence requirements:

- 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 is encouraged to enter agreements no later than December 1st.
- 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.
- Land owner shall leave a minimum of 12 rows of standing corn.
- The corn rows should be no closer than 75ft to the edge of pavement with a maximum distance of 150ft from the roadway.
- ORIGINAL SIGNED TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) VERIFICATION FORM is required for reimbursement. Send the original with your signature to the local WisDOT office contact listed for your county.
- WisDOT will pay $150 per 100ft of standing corn (prorated for partial stations).

How to get involved

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation wishes to expand participation in the standing corn row snow fence program. The program establishes agreements with private landowners for the use of standing corn row snow fence. Landowners have been, and continue to be, the keys to the success of the program.

If you would like to learn more about the program and benefits of standing corn row snow fences, contact your local DOT region maintenance office contact listed on the next page.

Region Contacts

North Central Region
Adams, Florence, Forest, Green Lake, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Menominee, Oneida, Portage, Price, Shawano, Vilas, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood counties.

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Northeast Region
Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago counties.

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Northwest Region
Eau Claire Office
Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, and Trempealeau counties.

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Superior Office
Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn counties.

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Southeast Region
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