Standing Corn Rows Improve Winter Travel
Farmer leadership and community service help keep roads open

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- MnDOT staff meets with farm operators to discuss terms of agreement including: number of corn rows, bales or bags, set back distance from road, compensation
- Farm operators leave standing corn rows, bales or bags until the following spring
- Farm operators decide whether or not they want a non-profit organization to handpick their corn and they coordinate with them. Last year farm operators donated on average $523/acre to non-profit organizations who hand picked their corn

For more information:
Local Contact (MnDOT):

MnDOT:
Dan Gullickson, MnDOT Forester
651-366-3610
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University of MN Extension:
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For more information:
**Benefits**

- Reduces the amount of snow blowing onto highways
- Increases driver visibility
- Safer driving conditions
- Less road salt application
- Less plowing expense to roadway
- Reduces road closures and allows traffic to flow
- Shows farmer leadership and community service

**Facts about program**

- Farm operators compensated on a per acre basis.
- A University of Minnesota calculator tool is used to determine fair compensation that factors in yield, production costs and inconvenience factors.
- Research shows that standing corn rows reduced the severity of injuries on curves by 40 percent.

**This program works!**

Standing corn rows are a great example of rural communities coming together to make a difference during the winter season.

Neighbor helping neighbor, supporting local hard working youth groups, supporting highway safety, and saving tax dollars - this program works!

**Options to pick standing corn rows**

To effectively reduce snow from blowing onto the highways, the corn stalks must remain standing. Corn ears can be hand picked by families, FFA and 4-H clubs, church groups and other non-profit organizations.

For more information: 

z.umn.edu/hpcorn