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 and 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.

For more information:

Local Contact (MnDOT):

z.umn.edu/snowfencecontacts

MnDOT:

Dan Gullickson, MnDOT Forester
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Standing Corn Rows Improve Winter Travel

Farmer leadership and community service help keep roads open

Help us keep snow and blowing snow off your roads this winter!

MnDOT pays farm operators to leave standing corn rows, hay bales or silage bags to protect selected state highways through winter

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