

Standing Bale or Silage Bag

Like the standing corn fence program, we also offer a standing bale or silage bag program. Hay or corn stalk bales or silage bags make for an excellent snow fence and are easier to set up than the structural snow fences. Landowners simply line up the bales end to end or place silage bag in the proper location and you will be compensated \$1.00 per foot of either running parallel to the roadway. They should be placed approximately 200 feet from the edge of the roadway.

Living Snow Fence

The USDA has a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that gives a landowner the opportunity to set aside land for living snow fence. This program allows the landowner to receive annual payments for up to 15 years if they agree to plant two rows of trees or a combination of trees and shrubs along with 75-100 feet of native grasses. More information on the CRP program can be found at the local Farm Service Agency or Natural Resource Conservation Service office.

Pushed up Snow

Landowner allows a maintainer to enter the field when ground is frozen and create a windrow of snow to act as a drift collector.



50' 70 - 100' 25' 15'

A possible combination for a living snow fence.

We would like to work with you!

Landowners have been, and continue to be, the keys to the success of the County's snow fence program.

The County may try to concentrate the program to paved roadways or highly impacted areas along gravel surfaced roads.

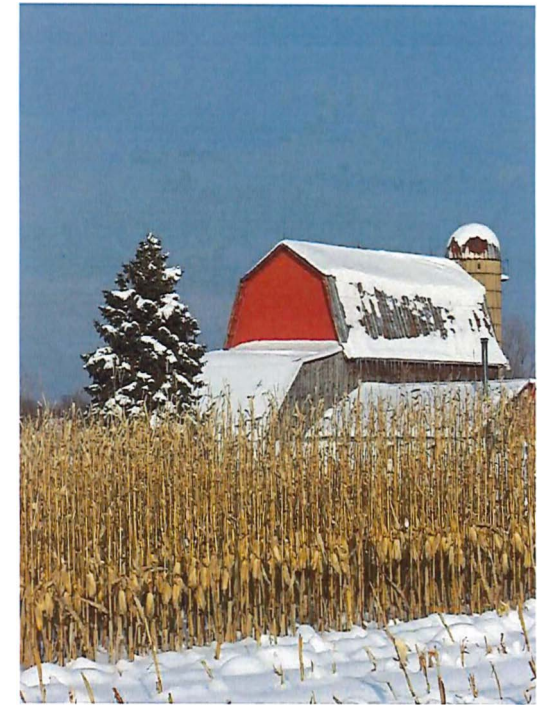
If you would like to learn more about the program and benefits of snow fences, contact the County Engineer's Office.

County Engineer's Office
17274 Lark Av.
Mason City, IA 50401

cgcengineer@cgcounty.org

641-424-9037.

Due to supply and budget constraints, the Engineer may have to limit the program fence types and quantity.



Cerro Gordo County's Cooperative Snow Fence Program



While we can't keep it from blowing, there are 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, properly designed and maintained snow fences can reduce or eliminate these problem areas. With your help we can make Iowa roads much safer this Winter along with giving landowners a chance to make a little extra money.

Benefits to landowners

- Improves accessibility between farmsteads, towns and services
- Provides a service to your neighbors and others
- Helps reduce soil erosion
- Living or standing corn snow fence provides wildlife habitat

Benefits to everyone

- Lowers snow removal cost
- Creates safer, more predictable travel conditions
- Reduces blockages and drifts
- Reduces the accident rate during snowy, windy conditions
- Increases visibility
- Decreases freezing and thawing effects on the roadway
- Faster after-storm improvement

“National research has found that it costs 100 times more to plow snow than to trap it with snow fence.”

Source: Strategic Highway Research Program

Structural Snow Control Options for Landowners

Permanent

Permanent structural snow fence consists of a 6 to 8-foot tall lightweight fence with wooden posts. These are placed parallel to the road and perpendicular to the prevailing winter winds. Permanent fence agreements are a minimum of 5 years and compensate the landowner \$1.00 per linear foot of fence.

Temporary

Temporary fence consists of four-foot tall portable plastic or wooden fence. This fence can be installed by either the landowner or County workers after harvest and removed before planting. These agreements go from fall to spring and can be renewed each year.

Things to consider

Distance: Fence should be placed away from the road a distance of 35 times the height of the fence (ex. 8' tall x 35=280-foot set back)

Height: The height of the fence depends on how much snow you want to be able to trap and how much snowfall is common for your area. One row of six-foot high fence is recommended for maximum efficiency.

Standing Corn

We have found over the years that when several rows of corn are left standing throughout the winter they act as a snow fence to help prevent snow from blowing and drifting onto the roadway. It also has great snow storage capacity between rows and is a valuable wildlife shelter.

Process

The farmer will leave a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 24 rows of corn standing after harvest. These rows should run parallel to the roadway and be located approximately 200 feet from the edge of the road. The corn can be hand harvested in the fall or picked in early spring before planting season.

Compensation

The County will pay the tenant or landowner based on its FSA reported yield or monitored harvest yield. Price per bushel is determined using the county-wide average cash price on August 1st each year plus \$2.00 per bushel for October new corn price. Agreements only go from fall to spring and can be renewed each year.



An example of a standing corn fence. Notice the snow trapped between the stalks.