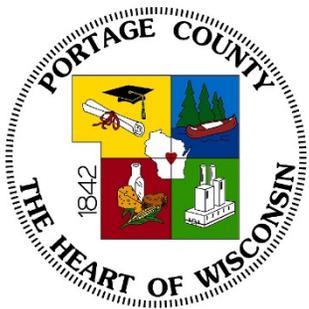




# Portage County Standing Corn Row Snow Fence Program



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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 locations.

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

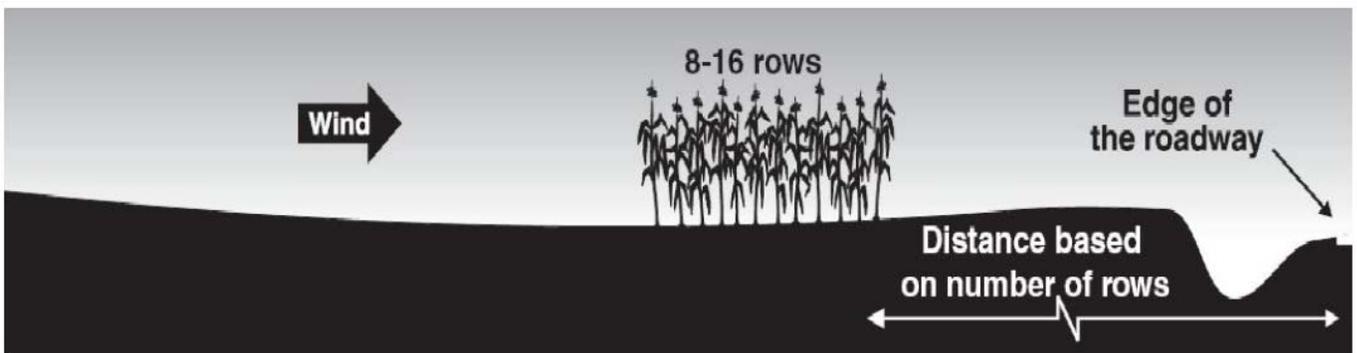
Source: Strategic Highway Resource Program.

Public Benefits of standing corn row snow fence:

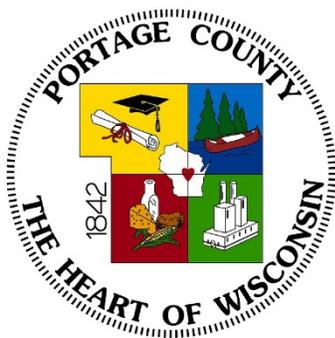
- Reduce blowing and drifting snow on roadways
- Stores snow at low cost
- Reduces the accident rate during snowy, windy conditions
- Creates safer travel conditions
- Decreases freezing and thawing effects on the roadway
- Lowers snow removal cost

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 wind



50' – 100' from edge of roadway



## **Standing corn row fence requirements:**

- Standing corn fence located 50 to 100 feet from the edge of the pavement must consist of at least 16 rows. Standing corn row fence located 100 feet or more from the edge of the pavement must consist of at least 12 rows. Standing corn fence located 200 feet or more from the edge of pavement must consist of 8 to 11 rows.
- Corn must be planted parallel to the roadway.
- Land owner must take precautions to prevent livestock from entering the area and damaging the standing corn.
- Landowner may hand pick the corn but the stalks must remain intact throughout the lease period which ends March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Areas of standing corn cannot be disturbed until after March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Administration:**

- Highway Department Staff will review locations where drifting has been an ongoing problem and identify properties with suitable standing corn row fence.
- Preference will be given to areas where the department has historically installed snow fence.
- Once a location is identified, an invitation to participate letter will be prepared and mailed or hand delivered to the owner.

## **Compensation:**

- Portage County will pay \$0.50 more per 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 basis of payment rather than the unit price methods described below. A copy of the contract shall be provided to the department for justification.
- An original signed W9 Taxpayer Identification number and Certification form is required for reimbursement.
- All agreements made from December 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> will honored based on the previous year's July price for the corn. The price per bushel is determined based on the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS), Agriculture 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. Where the local mill is defined as where the agreement party typically takes their grain or the current NASS price for Portage County; whichever is higher.
- The Value Finding for Standing Corn Row Crops Used for Snow Break Purposes form shall be used to determine yield and estimated payments.

Website to check current prices <http://www.agriculture.com/markets/commodity-prices>

Approved by Portage County Highway Committee: October 3, 2017



# Standing Corn Snow Fence Agreement

County Road \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_

This agreement made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between Land Owner/Tenant \_\_\_\_\_, Lessor and Portage County, Lessee wish to establish a temporary standing corn windbreak to reduce blowing and drifting snow on the highway.

1. In order to establish and maintain a standing corn windbreak on the premises, Lessor hereby leases the area for the corn snow fence to the Lessee from the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, \_\_\_\_\_ in accord with the following terms.
2. Lessor agrees to maintain \_\_\_\_\_ rows of standing corn \_\_\_\_\_ feet long in one continuous strip.
3. Lessor agrees that the first row will be approximately \_\_\_\_\_ from the edge of the roadway.
4. Total Lease area is \_\_\_\_\_ acres. The Lessee agrees to pay the Lessor for the value of the crop as computed on the yield of the remainder of the field at the rate of \_\_\_\_\_ per bushel.
5. Lessee agree to pay the Lessor agrees to accept as rent the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, with payment due within 45 days after approval.
6. Lessor agrees to take necessary measures to prevent livestock from entering the area and other damage to the standing corn windbreak.
7. Lessee agrees to pay and lesser agrees to accept payment of rent under this agreement as full payment for all field preparation losses or crop damages caused by the establishment or maintenance of the standing corn windbreak.
8. Upon expiration of the tem of this agreement, Lessor may till the corn stalks and pick the corn if it has not already been picked and Lessee shall have no further rights or obligations whatsoever, either to pay rent or with respect to maintenance or the removal of the crop.
9. The original W9 form, This Agreement, and the Value finding for standing row crops used for snow fence purpose must be submitted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lessor – Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lessor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lessor Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Phone Number and email

Portage County Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Highway Commissioner or designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Value Finding for Standing Corn Row Crops Used For Snow Break Purpose

County Road \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel # \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Landowner Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Tenant Name

(If land tenanted on cash basis, landlord need not to named payee. Where tenanted on a crop-share basis, both tenant and landlord execute agreement.)

Number of Rows Standing Corn = \_\_\_\_\_; Total width of rows= \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Length of Rows \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

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## TOTAL AREA OF STANDING CORN ROWS TO REMAIN UNHARVESTED:

Length \_\_\_\_\_ x Width \_\_\_\_\_ ÷ 43,560 sq. ft./ac. = \_\_\_\_\_ acres

\*Estimated yield per acre = \_\_\_\_\_ bushels

*\*Use actual production history (APH) yield when available from Lessor. Otherwise, yield will be based on the computed county average as determined by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).*

Cost per bushel at local mill, contract price, or NASS price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus \$0.50/ bushel \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (final payment per bushel)

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## COMPUTE TOTAL VALUE OF STANDING CROP:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_/bushel x \_\_\_\_\_ Bushel/acre yield x \_\_\_\_\_ acres  
(Price per bushel) (Yield per acre)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ total value of crops to remain unharvested.

## Portage County Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Highway Commissioner or designee