

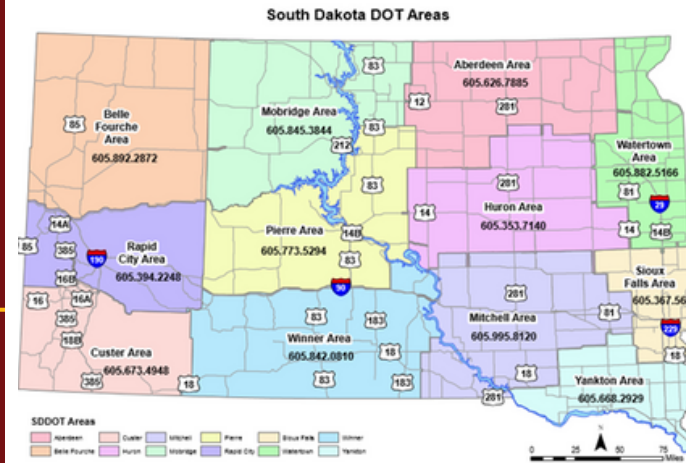
# BENEFITS OF SNOW FENCES

## Benefits to public:

- Reduces blowing and drifting snow on roadways.
- Increases visibility
- Stores snow at a low cost.
- Reduces crashes during snowy, windy conditions.
- Creates safer travel conditions
- Decreases freezing and thawing effects on the roadway
- Lowers snow-removal cost

## Benefits to landowners:

- Helps reduce soil erosion
- Improves access to farmsteads and rural areas
- Provides a service to your community
- Conserves wildlife
- Can increase yield by retaining moisture and reducing drying



## CONTACT US

If you have noticed a problem with blowing or drifting snow across a State Highway adjacent to your property and are interested in having a snow fence installed, please contact the SDDOT Area Office in which your property is located.

### Download the Brochure:

<https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/forms-publications/brochures>

The South Dakota Department of Transportation gives public notice of its policy to uphold and assure full compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related Nondiscrimination authorities. Title VI and related Nondiscrimination authorities stipulate that no person in the United States of America shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, income level, or Limited English Proficiency be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Any person who has questions concerning this policy or wishes to file a discrimination complaint should contact the Department's Civil Rights Office at 605-773-3540.



DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

# SNOW FENCES

Blowing or drifting snow on roadways is a major transportation safety and efficiency concern, causing crashes and requiring expensive snow removal and other maintenance.



<https://dot.sd.gov/>



# SNOW FENCE OPTIONS FOR LANDOWNERS

## PERMANENT

A permanent structural snow fence consists of an eight to 12-foot-tall wood or composite fence. These are placed parallel to the road and perpendicular to the prevailing winter winds.

Living snow fences take time to establish and can become beneficial on their own but early on may need to use the temporary fence to establish the snow fence.

Permanent fence agreements are a minimum of 10 years.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

**Setback:** The fence should be placed away from the road at a distance of 35 times the height of the fence (ex: 8' tall x 35 = 280-foot setback).

**Height:** The height of the fence depends on how much snow is needing to be trapped and how much snowfall is common for the area.

## COMPENSATION

The department will pay the farmer/landowner based on the loss from an assumed yield and the locational benefits of the snow fence to the road. Agreements range in duration of time to reflect the type of Snow Fences.

# TYPES OF SNOW FENCES



**Temporary:** typically four-foot tall, lath or plastic material fencing, placed on private land during the winter months

**Permanent:** wood or composite fence



**Living snow fences:** trees, bushes, or native grasses that are natural barriers to blowing snow

**Standing corn or hay bale snow fences:** 8-24 rows of standing corn after the harvest or hay bales



## STANDING CORN

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

## STANDING BALE

Like the standing corn fence program, we also offer a standing bale program. Hay or corn stalk bales make for an excellent snow fence and are easier to set up than structural snow fences. Landowners simply line up the bales end to end, and are compensated per linear foot of bale running parallel to the state highway. Bales should be placed approximately 200 feet from the edge of the roadway.

## TEMPORARY

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