

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan		2023-04	
DATE:	March 15, 2023	CONTACT:	Bret Witkowski, Managing Director Van Buren County Road Commission Post Office Box 156 Lawrence, Michigan 49064 PHONE: (269) 674-8011, Extension 222
RELEASE:	Immediately		

FARMERS CAN HELP PROTECT OUR ROADS “We Mow - So Don’t Sow!”

THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

The Van Buren County Road Commission has been given, by law, the responsibility for regulating and controlling activities in the county road right-of-way in order to manage the placement of road signs, utilities and for other approved uses of the public easement. Any work in the right-of-way must be permitted by the Road Commission in order to make sure access to public facilities is efficient. The right-of-way is typically a width of 66 feet (33 feet on either side of the centerline of the road).

From late spring through late summer the Van Buren County Road Commission maintains the right-of-way by performing mowing cycles to keep roadsides and intersections clear and suitable for travel and use. In addition, in late summer the Road Commission also performs roadside chemical vegetation management to control brush and woody vegetation within the county road right-of-way.

Farmers can help protect our roads by avoiding the road right-of-way when tilling and planting their crops, such as soybeans, corn, asparagus, pickles, etc. Any crops planted in the right-of-way are there at the farmers’ risk and no compensation for loss of crops in the right-of-way will be considered pursuant to Road Commission Policy 2022-02. Therefore, all crops must be planted beyond 14’ from the road’s edge, or behind the “Back Slope” of an existing ditch as set forth in the diagram below. Roadside ditches cannot be backfilled by property owners or their tenants.

In short, Road Commission staff and its contractors will be strictly enforcing the Road Commission’s statutory right to mow or control brush in the county road right-of-way. Cooperation in keeping the right-of-way free of anything un-permitted by the Road Commission except authorized mailbox mountings is essential.

To review a copy of the Board of County Road Commission’s Policy 2022-02, Right-of-Way Mowing, Brush Control & Spraying Policy visit the Road Commission’s website at: www.vbcrc.org/vegetationmaintenance. This Policy complies with the standards created by law (MCL 247.665b).

