

Driveway and Approach Permits

On County Roads, the County will provide one approach or driveway per quarter section (1/2 mile) if there is none on the quarter section.

If there is an approach on the quarter section and the landowner wants an additional approach he/she must purchase a Driveway and Approach Permit for a fee of \$50.00 and is responsible for installation including a culvert if needed. The Highway Department will inspect the site prior to installation to determine if the location requires a culvert and if the site is in a safe location. The Highway Department will also inspect the approach after installation to approve the installation. The approach must meet all guidelines as stated on the permit or the landowner will be asked to make corrections. If corrections are not made the County may remove the approach at the expense of the landowner.

A Permit will not be required to widen an existing approach if there is no culvert present or required but permission from the Highway Department must be granted before the approach is widened. If there is an existing approach with a culvert in place the landowner must go through the permit process.

Any landowner that allows an approach to be built without a permit may be subject to a \$100.00 fine. The landowner will then be required to purchase a \$50.00 Approach Permit. This approach will then be inspected and if it does not meet the requirements of the approach permit the approach will be repaired by the County and the expense to repair such approach will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Planting in ROW

The Beadle County Highway Department reminds farmers that planting crops within rights of way is illegal. There are safety concerns as well.

Crops grown so close to the road can create blind intersections and also make it impossible for advanced warning if a deer jumps out from a field. Utility companies are permitted to use highway right of way to install gas lines, power lines, telephone lines, and fiber optic cable. Plowing and tilling can damage these lines and create a potentially dangerous situation for workers and area residents, as well as causing possible service interruptions.

Safety issues are not the only problems created by crop encroachment. Erosion can become a problem, especially in ditches. It can affect proper drainage, clog culverts, and jeopardize the stability of the shoulders and the roadbed itself.

Beadle County Highway Department plans to monitor the right of way and notify landowners of any violation. The notice may ask the responsible person to remove the planted crop and re-establish the affected area with permanent, non-crop vegetation at their own expense. The highway department may make any corrections necessary and assess costs to the responsible person.

Mowing of County Road Ditches

Mowing road ditches is important for many reasons. Some of the more critical issues are:

Maintain sight distance - Mowing keeps grass and vegetation from interfering with driver's sight distance, this includes sign visibility.

Keep trees and bushes small - Mowing keeps saplings and small plants from growing up and becoming larger trees and bushes that could be considered fixed objects if struck. Mowing and large vegetation removal should be done in the clear zone of the roads.

Drainage - Well maintained slopes and ditches have better drainage characteristics.

Define roadway - Mowing helps drivers get a feel for the road layout and makes sure any fixed objects can be seen.

Mowing (top cut) of Beadle County roadway ditches will begin on June 13th and will continue until completed, except County Road 23 around Lake Byron which will be mowed prior to Memorial Day. No areas will be left uncut. If you have areas you intend to harvest please do so prior to our arrival.