

# **Living snow fences wanted**

## **Funds available to put up permanent blocks along state roads**

By Troy Krause  
Editor

Anyone who had been out this winter knows there are places where the snow blows, drifts and ultimately blocks roadways.

If only there was a way to prevent some of that from happening.

Actually, there is.

It's called a living snow fence, and landowners are being encouraged to establish them in Redwood County.

The concept of a living snow fence is not a new one.

What is new, said Judy Schulte, technician for the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District, is funding from the federal government through the CRP program and from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The concept promotes the planting of trees and/or shrubs on land along major highways, 14, 19 and 71 in Redwood County.

Schulte said the program is available for anyone who has land eligible along a highway maintained by the state transportation department.

What trees are actually planted in the living snow fence is up to the landowner, said Schulte, adding she is willing to work with those who might be interested in taking part in the program.

"All you need is a small area," Schulte said. "The actual snow fence takes only a small acreage."

She added, however, that grassland can also be added to the area around the trees or shrubs.

Schulte said there are a number of good reasons to put up a living snow fence, including:

- Managing snow
- Protecting one's farmstead and/or feedlot
- Enhancing wildlife
- Providing erosion control on adjacent land
- Water quality benefits
- Carbon sequestration
- Energy consumption savings
- Reduction of salt and sand use on roadways
- Saving lives, time and energy.

Schulte said the SWCD has a variety of trees available for planting living snow fences, shelterbelts or just for added plantings on one's land.

Those trees are currently available for spring planting.

Schulte said tree planting for living snow fences are done by SWCD working in conjunction with the landowners.

For those who might be interested in taking part in the living snow fence program, one can contact Schulte by calling the Redwood County SWCD office at (507) 637-2427 ext. 3.