

# VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

## NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

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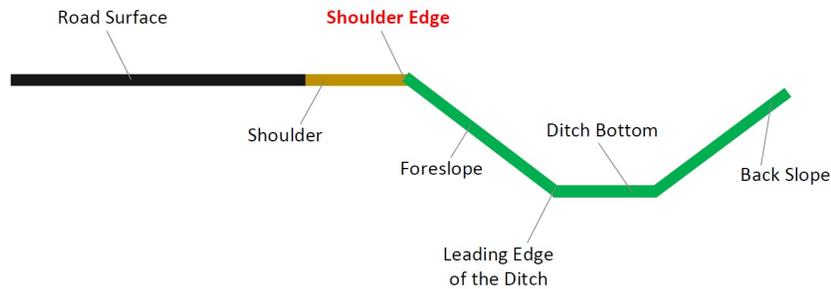
Lawrence, Michigan	2026-04
DATE: March 25, 2026	CONTACT: Bret Witkowski, Managing Director Van Buren County Road Commission Post Office Box 156 Lawrence, Michigan 49064 PHONE: (269) 674-8011, Extension 222
RELEASE: Immediately	

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### FARMERS ARE REMINDED TO KEEP RIGHT-OF-WAY CROP FREE "We Mow - So Don't Sow!"

#### THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

As spring approaches and the planting season begins, the Van Buren County Road Commission is reminding area farmers to keep road rights-of-way clear for public safety and maintenance purposes. Crops must be planted at least 14 feet from the road's edge or behind the back slope of an existing ditch, as illustrated in the diagram below.



Planting within the right-of-way is done at the farmer's own risk, and the Road Commission cannot offer compensation for any crop loss within that area, in accordance with Policy 2022-02.

The Road Commission performs regular mowing cycles throughout the growing season to maintain safe sightlines along roadsides and intersections. Any crops planted within the right-of-way will be mowed during normal maintenance operations. In late summer, the Commission also conducts chemical vegetation management to control brush and woody growth. Road rights-of-way are reserved for road signs, drainage, and public utilities, and are typically 66 feet wide (33 feet on each side of the road's centerline).

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: <https://www.vbcrc.org/policies>, or contact the Road Commission's Managing Director, Bret Witkowski, at 269-674-8011, Extension 222, [BretWitkowski@vbcrc.org](mailto:BretWitkowski@vbcrc.org). The Road Commission's Policy complies with the standards created by law (MCL 247.665b).

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