**Statement of County Commissioners Concerning County Road Right-of-Ways**

As we near the planting season, we want to remind all farmers that it is vitally important to the proper maintenance of our county roads that farmers refrain from planting crops both in the road ditch right-of-way and in the rights-of-way at intersections.

Many farmers plant crops in the ditches or remove the ditches entirely. These ditches are designed to hold and convey run-off from the county roads. If the ditches are impeded, water stands on the county roads, causing deterioration to the road surface and creating unsafe conditions for motorists. The County Highway Department has the obligation to maintain these road ditches, and it also has the right to request that you pay for the reconstruction of ditches damaged by your farming operations. If crops are removed from the right-of-way, the County will not reimburse you for the crops removed.

Near intersections, keeping crops out of the county right-of-way is important in order to preserve the line of sight necessary for motorists to safely enter the intersection and see oncoming traffic. Aside from the possible liability farmers may assume by obstructing the line of sight clearance area, the County Highway Department has the right to clear crops from these areas in order to clear the line of sight areas. If the Highway Department removes crops from the right-of-way, the County will not reimburse you for the crops removed.

We ask that all farmers cooperate in the proper respect for these road rights-of-way so that our roads drain properly and so that we can maintain intersections with safe lines of site for all of our friends and neighbors. In anticipation of your cooperation, we thank you for helping to maintain our roads and safe intersections.