

**DELAWARE COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Filling in road ditches

County road ditches perform the important functions of providing roadside drainage and snow storage. Ditches provide many of the same functions in the rural area that curb and gutter provide within cities. Because of the need to provide roadside drainage, filling roadside ditches to ease or accommodate mowing of the right of way is not allowed.

As provided in Section 319.14 of the Code of Iowa, all work within county rights of way, including ditch filling, requires a permit from the county engineer's office. Rural residents and property owners are to call the county engineer's office to request the County Engineer or Maintenance Foreman to review the ditch fill in question. The determination of the county engineer as to whether the ditch fill will be allowed will be final.

A minimum two (2) foot deep ditch will be required in all locations. In some cases, ditches may need to be deeper than the 2 foot minimum. Required ditch depth will be determined by the County Engineer. All work within the right of way will be completed to county requirements and reseeded. All expense in this type of work will be borne by the permittee, not the county.

Residents and property owners filling ditches without a permit will be required to bring any work done into compliance with county standards. The county engineer will send a letter notifying the property owner of the need to repair the ditch. If the owner or resident refuses, the county may repair the roadway and bring it into compliance with county requirements and bill the property owner for the cost of restoring the ditch under the terms of Section 319.14 of the Code of Iowa.

APPROVED:

---

Bill Skinner, Chairman-Delaware County Board of Supervisors

---

Mark J. Nahra, Delaware County Engineer

Attachment:  
Letter to property owners