



December 2011

HARDIN COUNTY FOCUS



Judge/Executive
Harry L. Berry

Let it Snow! Your County Government's Snow Plows are Ready!

While many are dreaming of a White Christmas, our County Road Department (*pictured below*) are planning for another winter snow-plowing season of our 576 miles of county roads. These dedicated men and women work 10-hour shifts, around the clock, until our roads are clear.



Their time can vary from 8 hours in a light snow fall to 5 days in heavy snow storms. Two work-crews, consisting of 10 drivers and 2 mechanics on each crew, rotate day and night to clear the 875 roads in the county.

We have approximately 2,000 tons of salt on hand this year and we will spread approximately 181 tons per day in severe weather conditions at a cost of \$12,465 per day for the salt alone! The total cost (salt, labor, fuel and equipment) is about \$90 per mile.

To save several thousand dollars annually, the employees of our County Road Department developed a “**Brine-Spray System.**” We purchased five (5) water tanks, spray nozzles, and electric pumps to build five (5) brine sprayers at our Road Department Maintenance Shop.



With these spray systems we can pre-treat overpasses, intersections, and hills; thereby reducing the need for salt after the snow storm. The short term weather forecasts determine if we pre-treat in advance of the storm.

The county has 11 tandem trucks and five single-axle trucks equipped with plows and spreaders to clear the snow. With heavy snow, we also utilize two road graders and one backhoe.

Each year we improve upon our plan utilizing valuable lessons learned from the prior year. As a result of the 2009 Ice Storm, we now cut back more tree limbs hanging over the roads in the summer months to make our winter road-clearing job easier.

To open our roads as fast as possible, we divide the county into five areas and clear 137 “**Priority Roads**” (main connecting roads) in each area first. Then, we turn to the non-priority roads.