

**CHAPTER 236**  
**FOREST FENCING INCENTIVES**  
*H.F. 266*

**AN ACT** relating to financial incentive payments for the protection of forests and forest soils from damage by grazing.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. **NEW SECTION. 467A.73 FINANCIAL INCENTIVE FOR SOIL CONSERVATION ON FOREST LANDS.**

1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - a. "Department" means the department of soil conservation.
  - b. "Forest" means stands of native or introduced trees containing at least two hundred trees per acre on privately owned land. However, fruit trees are not forest.
  - c. "Professional forester" means a forestry graduate of an institution of higher learning and having a minimum of two years forest management experience.
  - d. "State forester" means the person employed by the state conservation commission as required by section 107.13.
2. The department may reimburse private landowners for a portion of the cost of fencing materials and installation for permanent fence used to protect forest land from domestic livestock grazing from state cost-sharing funds if the grazing has been determined to cause excessive soil loss. Total department expenditure shall not exceed fifty percent of total landowner expenditures. Expenditures for boundary and road fence construction and for repair and replacement of existing fence are not eligible for reimbursement unless the complete fence is replaced.
3. As a condition for receiving reimbursement, landowners shall sign an agreement to maintain the fence for a minimum of ten years and shall follow written professional forester recommendations approved by the state forester or that person's designee on the tract to be protected by fencing.
4. Recipient landowners found to be in noncompliance with the maintenance agreement shall maintain, repair, or reconstruct damaged fence, or shall pay the department an amount equal to that reimbursed.
5. The department shall adopt, by rule, the form and informational requirements for reimbursement, the minimum forest acreage, and any limitation on the maximum reimbursement an individual landowner may receive. For the purposes of this section, forests shall be considered as agricultural land eligible for public cost-sharing funds.

Approved May 31, 1985