

Pennsylvania eFOTG – Section III

Pennsylvania ACS Guidelines

Pennsylvania Alternative Conservation Systems (ACS)

The following guidelines are available for developing Alternative Conservation Systems (ACS) with USDA program participants in Pennsylvania. These guidelines represent the minimum level of conservation treatment that a person must implement on Highly Erodible Land (HEL). All Alternative Conservation Systems, which result in equal or less soil loss than the Pennsylvania standard, may be used at the county level. In addition to this reduction in sheet and rill erosion, all gully erosion must be treated.

The following procedure will be followed in Pennsylvania when using the current version of the Revised Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE 2) to develop Alternative Conservation Systems:

Maximum allowable soil loss will not exceed the Tolerable soil loss level “T” plus an additional two tons per acre per year (Maximum soil loss for an ACS = $T + 2$).

A further restriction on the above maximum is that the maximum allowable soil loss will also not exceed two times the Tolerable soil loss level “T” (Soil loss cannot exceed $2T$) This will come into effect if the Tolerable soil loss for a soil is one (1) ton per acre per year, in which case the maximum allowable soil loss for an ACS will be no more than 2 tons per acre per year.

Additional Alternative Conservation Systems for Specific Crops

Potatoes: Crop rotation of potatoes, small grain (with meadow seeding) and one year of hay with contour or field stripcropping.

Orchard Renovation: Crop rotation of corn, corn, small grain (with meadow seeding) and one year of hay with contour or field stripcropping.