

ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATION SYSTEMS (ACS)

An Alternative Conservation Systems (ACS) is a conservation system for treating sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land that is documented in the FOTG and which achieves a substantial reduction in soil loss rates. The term applies only to conservation plans and conservation systems developed to carry out the provision of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

The Alternative Conservation Systems will only be used on highly erodible soils where complete erosion protection isn't technically or economically feasible and the field meets the criteria described in the National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM).

The acceptable level will be based on technically feasible and practical solutions and may be influenced by financial hardship, local acceptability, or unique social considerations.

If the field office contains highly erodible lands, and has Soil Conservation District approved ACS, guide sheets may be developed which identify example systems. The sheets will show combinations of practices and management, which will meet substantial erosion reduction criteria, as identified in the NFSAM, common to a soil or soil grouping and land use. Each guide sheet developed by the field office staff, with the assistance of the state agronomist, will be labeled to apply only to FSA/FACTA/FAIRA compliance requirement situations.