

BASIC CONSERVATION SYSTEMS (BCS)

A Basic Conservation System (BCS) is an erosion control system for treating sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land (HEL). A BCS may be a component of an RMS. The BCS must achieve soil loss tolerance (T) requirements for the principal soil it is designed to protect and be documented in the FOTG. 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. Specifically Conservation Systems planned on Highly Erodible Land must produce a significant reduction in erosion. A significant reduction in erosion is 2T where T is the specific soil loss tolerance OR produce a reduction in erosion of 75% or more.

A basic conservation system that meets the requirements of the FSA/FACTA/FAIRA may differ from an RMS in that it deals only with the erosion control component of an RMS.

A producer may want to redefine a field(s) to reduce the number of acres that will require treatment to meet the HEL provisions. As part of the conservation planning process NRCS can provide assistance in redefining fields. It will be the producer's responsibility to work out the details of redefining fields with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

During the process of developing a basic conservation system, attention will be given to providing the producer with sound alternatives and/or options. The options should give producers a chance to consider the most cost effective treatment that meets their objectives and also provides for compliance with the FSA/FACTA/FAIRA.

