

## **SECTION III – B MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR LEGISLATED PROGRAMS**

### **1. Highly Erodible Land (HEL)**

This system applies only to conservation plans and systems developed for compliance with the highly erodible land provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. This act is commonly referred to as the “Farm Bill.”

#### **Basic Conservation System (BCS)**

The purpose of a Basic Conservation System is to reduce soil erosion on HEL cropland fields to acceptable levels. A BCS is an erosion control system for treating sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on HEL land. A BCS may be a component of a Resource Management System. Refer to the National Food Security Act Manual for additional details concerning requirements for HEL conservation plans and systems.

In Delaware, a Basic Conservation System may consist of any combination of vegetative, structural, and/or management practices that reduce soil loss to the sustainable soil loss tolerance amount (T) for the rotation of the management unit. Treatment of sheet, rill, and ephemeral gully erosion is required.

#### **Alternative Conservation System (ACS)**

An Alternative Conservation System is also an erosion control system for treating sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on HEL land. An ACS may be used when certain crops, social, or economic considerations preclude the use of a Basic Conservation System. No Alternative Conservation Systems were approved for use in Delaware.