FOR MORE VA EROSION & RUSLE2 INFO, GO TO OUR RESOURCES INDEX OR THE VIRGINIA ELECTRONIC FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE (EFOTG), SECTION 1

VIRGINIA NRCS RUSLE2 QUICK GUIDE

GETTING RESULTS with RUSLE2 PLANS

Revised 06/18/13 by Chris Lawrence, NRCS State Cropland Agronomist, Richmond, VA (chris.lawrence@va.usda.gov or 804/287-1680)

STEP A. GET READY (I.E., BEFORE YOU START YOUR R2 PLAN)

1. **Find/build/organize the management files you will use in your calculations.**
2. **Make sure you have all other necessary input data (soils, slopes, etc.).**
3. **Think about how you will name/save the plan file you will create.**
   Option: Create new subfolder in Plans folder if this project will involve multiple plans. Go to "Database" menu, select "Rearrange". In "Change Database" left-hand box, navigate to and right-click Plans folder. Select "New Folder," give new subfolder a good name.
4. **Select "VA Basic" as your User Template to ensure guidance below matches your screen view.**

STEP B. BEGIN YOUR CALCULATION/R2 PLAN

1. **Open an existing plan file.**
   Recommended: "***default PLAN [YOUR COUNTY NAME HERE]***" already containing inputs for your county!
2. **Hit "*Save As*" to make a copy, then name and save your new file.**
   Save As = 2nd icon in R2 header.
3. **Select your county in the LOCATION (climate) box.**
4. **Save often from this point forward!**
   Save = 1st icon in R2 header. Asterisk (*) after file name in window header means you have unsaved changes.

STEP C. BEGIN FIRST FIELD/WORKSHEET IN YOUR R2 PLAN

1. **Click yellow folder to open the first field/worksheet in your plan.**
   Tip: Even if you know plan will contain multiple worksheets, finish the first sheet before creating others.
2. **Type in FIELD NAME if needed.**
3. **Select SOIL TYPE.**
4. **Type in SLOPE LENGTH.**
5. **Type in SLOPE STEEPNESS.**

STEP D. INPUT DATA FOR FIRST MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE

1. **Focus on 1st row/scenario of the "Management Alternatives & Results" table.**
   Tip: Even if you know this worksheet will contain multiple rows, finish the first before creating others.
2. **Select a MANAGEMENT file for the first row/scenario.**
   6th column in Management Alternatives & Results Table

3. **DRILL INTO the management file to check contents are as desired.**
4. **Check/adjust YIELDS if needed.**
   7th and 8th columns in Management Alternatives & Results Table
5. **Check/adjust RESIDUE INPUTS (manure rates) if needed.**
   9th column in Management Alternatives & Results Table.
6. **Check/adjust CONTOURING (row grade) if needed.**
   10th column in Management Alternatives & Results Table.
7. **Type in a DESCRIPTION for the scenario.**
   5th column in Management Alternatives & Results Table.

STEP E. REVIEW / FINE-TUNE RESULTS & INPUTS FOR FIRST SCENARIO

1. **Check soil loss, SCI, and STIR results. Do they seem reasonable?**
   4th, 2nd, 3rd columns in Management Alternatives & Results Table, respectively.
2. **If needed, drill into profile screen for first row/scenario for detailed fine-tuning.**
   a. Click on yellow folder in 1st column of Management Alternatives & Results Table.
   b. Options for fine-tuning inputs: "Step 5" for support practices; "Step 4C" for "Adjust residue burial level"
   c. For closer review of inputs, see "Results", "Additional Results", and "Track Residue & Canopy" tabs. Tip: right-click on header for a values column and hit "Graph" to visualize what R2 thinks is happening.
   d. Close profile screen when finished.

STEP F. CREATE ADDITIONAL ROWS/SCENARIOS IN FIRST WORKSHEET AS NEEDED

1. **Click "+" box above 1st column in Management Alternatives & Results table.**
   To see impact of an input change, you may be tempted to change inputs for the row or scenario in question and "remember" what the first results were. Don't do it. Duplicate the row, make the input change to the new row, and compare outcomes side-by-side.
2. **Repeat Steps D. and E. above for each row/scenario in the first worksheet/field.**
3. **Close first worksheet when it is finished and return to plan screen.**

STEP G. CREATE ADDITIONAL WORKSHEETS/FIELD IN PLAN AS NEEDED

1. **Click "+" box above Field/Worksheet column to add more fields/worksheets to the plan.**
2. **Repeat Steps C. through F. above to enter inputs and review results for each field/worksheet.**

STEP H. PRINT TO MICROSOFT WORD

1. **To print plan inputs and outputs, from the plan screen, go to "File" menu, hit "Print Report."**
   You can print additional details if you print from other screens within the plan. For example, you can print details about managements, residue cover estimates, etc. by hitting "Print Report" from profile screen.
2. **Select either the "VA Printout Summary" or "VA Printout w Details" print templates.**
3. **Try again a couple of times if tables are too garbled.**
   Current version of R2 is not fully compatible with MS Word 2007. Long tables often do not print correctly, but the problem seems to occur randomly. Sometimes the problem goes away if you simply print again or to a different template. If tables are still garbled after multiple attempts from within R2, I recommend simply editing the garbled printout in Word to produce the desired formatting.