



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

August 17, 2007

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL (NFSAM)
180 – V – NFSAM
AMENDMENT IA2

SUBJECT: CPA – NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL

Purpose. To transmit NFSAM Iowa Amendment 2, August 2007.

Effective Date. Upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes: Provide Iowa Acceptable Conservation System Levels.

This policy provides guidance on the approval level delegated by the State Conservationist to the responsible field office employee.

Filing Instructions.

Insert Part

Dated

IA512.02 Acceptable Conservation Systems

August 2007

/s/

Richard Van Klaveren
State Conservationist

Attachment

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Title 440 – Programs

Part 512 – Conservation Systems and Plans

Subpart A – Conservation Systems

IA512.02 Acceptable Conservation Systems

C. Conservation System Approval Levels

Conservation systems must be developed to meet a USDA participant's specific needs as well as meeting the HELC requirements. Since the stated goals of the HELC provisions are to reduce or prevent excessive soil erosion, NRCS has established approval levels when conservation systems not currently in the FOTG are developed for use on HEL cropland. The conservation system approval levels are as follows:

- The responsible field office employee may approve alternative conservation systems if the system has a predicted soil loss less than or equal to the conservation system described in the Iowa FOTG Section III, Part IIA2 **and** the planned system does not exceed **2T** (two times the tolerable erosion rate).
- State Conservationist may approve HEL conservation systems that have a predicted erosion rate in excess of 2T (two times the tolerable erosion rate) but the predicted rate does not exceed 4T (four times the tolerable erosion rate).

For only those fields where the predominant HEL soil map unit has a soil loss tolerance (T) of two or three tons per acre; and where the HEL fields have a crop history for the crop years 1981 to 1985, or had been cropped prior to December 23, 1985 and had a plan approved after July 3, 1996 - the Iowa State Conservationist authorizes the responsible field office employee to approve alternative conservation systems if the system has a predicted soil loss less than or equal to the conservation system described in the Iowa FOTG Section III, Part IIA2 **and** the planned system does not exceed 4T (four times the tolerable erosion rate).