

27. HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

We support:

1. Efforts to alter Highly Erodible Lands (HEL) determination and classification to reflect the applied permanent conservation practices (i.e. terraces and diversions) that reduce the soil loss factor on soils that would normally be highly erodible. If the reduction in soil loss makes the land NON-HEL, the land should be so classified and remain so classified as long as the permanent conservation practices are maintained as designed.
2. Variances in conservation practices for livestock farmers so they can utilize crops or crop residue without jeopardizing conservation compliance regulations. These practices should include, but not be limited to, pasturing livestock, chopping silage, harvesting crop residues, and manure incorporation.
3. Local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel working directly with farmers in coordinating the repair of damage from normal farming practices to fields with an HEL designation. The NRCS should consider field condition limitations before imposing penalties for non-compliance.