

length and steepness of slope on erosion based on 4 tables reflecting the relationship of rill to interrill erosion.

(5) *C* is the cover and management factor. Estimates the soil loss ratio at one-half month intervals throughout the year, accounting for the individual effects of prior land use, crop canopy, surface cover, surface roughness, and soil moisture.

(6) *P* is the support practice factor. Accounts for the effect of conservation support practices, such as cross-slope farming, stripcropping, buffer strips, and terraces on soil erosion.

#### § 610.13 Equations for predicting soil loss due to wind erosion.

(a) The equation for predicting soil loss due to wind in the Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ) is  $E = f(KCLV)$ . (For further information on WEQ see the paper by N.P. Woodruff and F.H. Siddaway, 1965, "A Wind Erosion Equation," Soil Science Society of America Proceedings, Vol. 29, No. 5, pages 602-608, which is available from the American Society of Agronomy, Madison, Wisconsin. In addition, the use of the WEQ in NRCS is explained in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Agronomy Manual, 190-V-NAM, second ed., Part 502, March, 1988, which is available from the NRCS, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013.)

(b) [Reserved]

(c) The factors in the WEQ equation are defined as follows:

(1) *E* is the estimation of the average annual soil loss in tons per acre.

(2) *f* indicates the equation includes functional relationships that are not straight-line mathematical calculations.

(3) *I* is the soil erodibility index. It is the potential for soil loss from a wide, level, unsheltered, isolated field with a bare, smooth, loose and uncrusted surface. Soil erodibility is based on soil surface texture, calcium carbonate content, and percent clay.

(4) *K* is the ridge roughness factor. It is a measure of the effect of ridges formed by tillage and planting implements on wind erosion. The ridge roughness is based on ridge spacing, height, and erosive wind directions in relation to the ridge direction

(5) *C* is the climatic factor. It is a measure of the erosive potential of the wind speed and surface moisture at a given location compared with the same factors at Garden City, Kansas. The annual climatic factor at Garden City is arbitrarily set at 100. All climatic factor values are expressed as a percentage of that at Garden City.

(6) *L* is the unsheltered distance. It is the unsheltered distance across an erodible field, measured along the prevailing wind erosion direction. This distance is measured beginning at a stable border on the upwind side and continuing downward to the nonerodible or stable area, or to the downwind edge of the area being evaluated.

(7) *V* is the vegetative cover factor. It accounts for the kind, amount, and orientation of growing plants or plant residue on the soil surface.

#### § 610.14 Use of USLE, RUSLE, and WEQ.

(a) All Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations are based on the formulas set forth in 7 CFR §12.21 using some of the factors from the USLE and WEQ and the factor values that were contained in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) as of January 1, 1990. In addition, this includes the soil loss tolerance values used in those formulas for determining HEL. The soil loss tolerance value is used as one of the criteria for planning soil conservation systems. These values are available in the FOTG in the local field office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(b) RUSLE will be used to:

(1)(i) Evaluate the soil loss estimates of conservation systems contained in the FOTG.

(ii) Evaluate the soil loss estimates of systems actually applied, where those systems were applied differently than specified in the conservation plan adopted by the producer or where a conservation plan was not developed, in determining whether a producer has complied with the HEL conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq., set forth in 7 CFR part 12; and

(2) Develop new or revised conservation plans.