

OBTAINING A NITROGEN LEACHING INDEX (NLI) VALUE FROM RUSLE 2

- (1) Open RUSLE 2, and Click on “**Options**” on the top menu bar
- (2) From the “Options” drop down menu, then go to “**Template > Load**”. Click on “**Load**”
- (3) From the “**Load User Template**” dialogue box, click on the “**NRCS simple SCI N_Leach101506.xml**” user template, and then click “**Open**”.
- (4) Open the “**Profile**” view on the graphic menu bar
- (5) When the “**Profiles**” dialogue box opens, click on the appropriate profile-based scenario, and then “**Open**”
- (6) Once the **Profile** view opens, populate the appropriate RUSLE 2 input data to calculate the field soil loss value if needed for the conservation plan. To determine the NLI value **only**, just the county location and soils data inputs need to be completed. The NLI value is based on soil type, Hydrologic Group, and Location.
- (7) When RUSLE 2 data input is complete in the “**Profile**” view, under the “**Results**” tab at the bottom (where the soil loss value is displayed), “**Nitrogen Leaching Index**” will be displayed directly under the “**Soil Conditioning Index**”
- (8) Click the folder beside the “**Nitrogen Leaching Index**” to open the NLI folder for the given soil type, and location.
- (9) **An NLI numeric value will display in red.** This number will be used to populate NLI for all planned fields where the specified soil type is predominant within the identified county location. For 590 planning, “planned fields” are all fields where nutrients are applied if the NM plan is ‘new’ or where major changes are being made to an existing plan. Planned fields are only those affected by planned changes if minor changes are being made to an existing plan. (See 590 Guidance Document for additional explanation.) Use this number to begin or continue building an NLI ‘database’ in a county-specific spreadsheet per soil map unit to retain for use in future nutrient management planning.

Per 590 standard criteria, when the planning unit NLI exceeds 10, conservation practices and/or mitigation techniques to control or trap surface and subsurface nitrogen losses must be included in any conservation plan developed in conjunction with the 590-based Nutrient Management Plan. If a conservation plan is not developed (ie TA only for Nutrient Management Plan modification), when the NLI > 10, recommended practices/techniques to mitigate N losses should be included in the 590 Job Sheet and/or the narrative portion of the Nutrient Management Plan.