Prime and other Important Farmlands

This table lists the map units in the survey area that are considered important farmlands. Important farmlands consist of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use.

In an effort to identify the extent and location of important farmlands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with other interested Federal, State, and local government organizations, has inventoried land that can be used for the production of the Nation's food supply.

Prime farmland is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For some of the soils identified in the table as prime farmland, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures.

A recent trend in land use in some areas has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables. It has the special combination of soil quality, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect needed for the soil to economically produce sustainable high yields of these crops when properly managed. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Nearness to markets is an additional consideration. Unique farmland is not based on national criteria. It commonly is in areas where there is a special microclimate, such as the wine country in California.

In some areas, land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland is considered to be *farmland of statewide importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The criteria for defining and delineating farmland of statewide importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable. Farmland of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law.

In some areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, land is considered to be *farmland of local importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This farmland is identified by the appropriate local agencies. Farmland of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance.

Report—Prime and other Important Farmlands

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Butler County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
AwA	Avonburg-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Bt	Brenton silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
CdD2	Casco and Rodman gravelly loams, 6 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
CdE	Casco and Rodman gravelly loams, 18 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CeB	Celina silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CeB2	Celina silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CnC2	Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
CrA	Crosby silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CtA	Crosby-Celina silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CtB	Crosby-Celina silt loams, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CvA	Cyclone silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DaA	Dana silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
DaB	Dana silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
DbB	Dana silt loam, bedrock substratum, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EcE2	Eden silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
EcF2	Eden silty clay loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
EdB	Eden-Urban land complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EdC	Eden-Urban land complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ee	Eel silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
ElA	Eldean loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ElB	Eldean loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ElB2	Eldean loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Butler County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
ElC2	Eldean loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
EnA	Eldean gravelly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EnB2	Eldean gravelly loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
EuA	Eldean-Urban land complex, nearly level	Not prime farmland
EuB	Eldean-Urban land complex, gently sloping	Not prime farmland
FcA	Fincastle silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FcB	Fincastle silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FdA	Fincastle silt loam, bedrock substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FdB	Fincastle silt loam, bedrock substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FeA	Fincastle-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Gn	Genesee loam	All areas are prime farmland
Go	Genesee-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
HeE2	Hennepin-Miamian silt loams, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
HeF	Hennepin-Miamian silt loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HeF2	Hennepin-Miamian silt loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HoA	Henshaw silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HwE2	Hennepin-Wynn silt loams, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HwF2	Hennepin-Wynn silt loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
JoR1B1	Jonesboro-Rossmoyne silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JoR1B2	Jonesboro-Rossmoyne silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
KeC2	Kendallville-Eldean silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
KeD2	Kendallville-Eldean silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
KnA	Kokomo silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KoA	Kokomo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
La	Landes sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
Lg	Lanier fine sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
Lh	Lanier sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MaB	Markland silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
McA	Martinsville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MkC2	Miamian silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MlB2	Miamian silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MlC2	Miamian silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MlD2	Miamian silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MnC3	Miamian clay loam, shallow to dense till substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
MnD3	Miamian clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
MoB2	Miamian-Celina silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MoD2	Miamian-Hennepin silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Butler County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
MpE2	Miamian-Hennepin silt loams, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MrC3	Miamian-Losantville clay loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
MrD3	Miamian-Losantville clay loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
MsC2	Miamian-Russell silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MsD2	Miamian-Russell silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MtC2	Miamian-Russell silt loams, bedrock substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MuC	Miamian-Urban land complex, sloping	Not prime farmland
MvA	Milford silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MvC	Miamian-Urban land complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OcA	Ockley silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OcB	Ockley silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pa	Patton silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
PrB	Princeton sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PtB	Princeton sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ra	Ragsdale silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
RbB2	Rainsville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
RdA	Raub silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RdB	Raub silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Rh	Riverwash	Not prime farmland
Rn	Ross loam	All areas are prime farmland
RoA	Rossburg silt loam, moderately wet, sandy substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
RsB2	Russell silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RtB	Russell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RvB	Russell-Miamian silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RvB2	Russell-Miamian silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
RwB	Russell-Miamian silt loams, bedrock substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RwB2	Russell-Miamian silt loams, bedrock substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
RxB	Russell-Urban land complex, gently sloping	Not prime farmland
RzB	Russell-Urban land complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Sh	Shoals silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
SlA	Sleeth silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

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Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
St	Stonelick fine sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
SwA	Stonelick loam, gravelly substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
ThA	Thackery silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TpA	Tippecanoe silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents	Not prime farmland
Uf	Udorthents and Dumps	Not prime farmland
UnA	Uniontown silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
UnB	Uniontown silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
UpA	Urban land-Eldean complex, nearly level	Not prime farmland
UsA	Urban land-Patton complex, nearly level	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WbA	Warsaw loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WeA	Wea silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WeB	Wea silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WnA	Westland silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WsS1A1	Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WuB	Wynn-Urban land complex, gently sloping	Not prime farmland
WuC	Wynn-Urban land complex, sloping	Not prime farmland
WyB	Wynn silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WyB2	Wynn silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
WyC2	Wynn silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
WyD2	Wynn silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WzC3	Wynn silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
XeA	Xenia silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
XeB	Xenia silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
XeB2	Xenia silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
XfA	Xenia silt loam, bedrock substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
XfB	Xenia silt loam, bedrock substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
XfB2	Xenia silt loam, bedrock substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Butler County, Ohio
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Dec 14, 2013