

## 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—Clermont County, Ohio |   |                              |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Map Symbol  | Map Unit Name   | Farmland Classification      |
| AdC   | Alluvial land, sloping  | Not prime farmland           |
| AwA   | Avonburg-Urban land complex, nearly level                               | Not prime farmland           |
| BoD2  | Bonnell silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded                      | Not prime farmland           |
| BoE   | Bonnell silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes                              | Not prime farmland           |
| BoF   | Bonnell silt loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes                              | Not prime farmland           |
| BrD3  | Bonnell silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded       | Not prime farmland           |
| CcB   | Cincinnati silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes                             | All areas are prime farmland |
| CcB2  | Cincinnati silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded          | All areas are prime farmland |
| CcC2  | Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded         | Farmland of local importance |
| CcD2  | Cincinnati silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded        | Farmland of local importance |
| CkD3  | Cincinnati and Hickory soils, 12 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded  | Not prime farmland           |
| Cle1A   | Clermont silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes                               | Not prime farmland           |
| CnC2  | Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded                    | Not prime farmland           |
| Cu  | Cut and fill land   | Not prime farmland           |
| EaD2  | Eden flaggy silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded | Farmland of local importance |
| EaE   | Eden flaggy silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes                          | Not prime farmland           |
| EaE2  | Eden flaggy silty clay loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded | Not prime farmland           |
| EaF   | Eden flaggy silt loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes                          | Not prime farmland           |
| EaF2  | Eden flaggy silty clay loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, moderately eroded | Not prime farmland           |
| EbC2  | Edenton loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded                 | Not prime farmland           |

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|--|---|------------------------------|
| Map Symbol   | Map Unit Name   | Farmland Classification      |
| EbD2   | Edenton loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded                          | Farmland of local importance |
| EbE2   | Edenton loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded                          | Not prime farmland           |
| EbG2   | Edenton loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, moderately eroded                          | Not prime farmland           |
| EcE3   | Edenton clay loam, 12 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded                       | Not prime farmland           |
| EdG3   | Edenton and Fairmount soils, 25 to 50 percent slopes, severely eroded             | Not prime farmland           |
| Ee   | Eel silt loam   | All areas are prime farmland |
| EkB  | Elkinsville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes                                      | All areas are prime farmland |
| FaE2   | Fairmount very flaggy silty clay loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded | Not prime farmland           |
| FaG2   | Fairmount very flaggy silty clay loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, moderately eroded | Not prime farmland           |
| FdD2   | Faywood silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded                                | Not prime farmland           |
| FnB  | Fox silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes  | All areas are prime farmland |
| FnC2   | Fox silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded                          | Farmland of local importance |
| FuB  | Fox-Urban land complex, gently sloping  | Not prime farmland           |
| Gn   | Genesee silt loam   | All areas are prime farmland |
| GpB  | Glenford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes   | All areas are prime farmland |
| GpC2   | Glenford silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded                     | Not prime farmland           |
| GpE2   | Glenford silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded                    | Not prime farmland           |
| Gr   | Gravel pits   | Not prime farmland           |
| HkD2   | Hickory loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded                          | Farmland of local importance |
| HkF2   | Hickory loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes, moderately eroded                          | Not prime farmland           |
| HIG3   | Hickory clay loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, severely eroded                       | Not prime farmland           |
| Hu   | Huntington silt loam  | All areas are prime farmland |
| JeC2   | Jessup silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded                                  | Not prime farmland           |
| JoR1A1   | Jonesboro-Rossmoyne silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes                             | All areas are 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 |
| Lg   | Lanier sandy loam   | All areas are prime farmland |
| Ln   | Lindside silt loam  | All areas are prime farmland |
| Mb   | Mahalasville silty clay loam  | Prime farmland if drained    |
| MdB  | Markland silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes   | All areas are prime farmland |
| MgA  | McGary silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes   | Prime farmland if drained    |
| Mh   | Medway silt loam, overwash  | All areas are prime farmland |
| Ne   | Newark silt loam  | Prime farmland if drained    |
| No   | Nolin silt loam, occasionally flooded   | All areas are 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 |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands--Clermont County, Ohio |  |  |
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| Map Symbol   | Map Unit Name  | Farmland Classification  |
| OdA  | Ockley-Urban land complex, nearly level  | Not prime farmland   |
| PbD2   | Pate silty clay, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded                                     | Not prime farmland   |
| Rh   | Riverwash  | Not prime farmland   |
| RkD2   | Rodman and Casco loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded                   | Not prime farmland   |
| RkE2   | Rodman and Casco loams, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded                   | Not prime farmland   |
| Rn   | Ross silt loam   | All areas are prime farmland   |
| RpC2   | Rossmoyne silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded                       | Farmland of local importance   |
| RsC3   | Rossmoyne silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded                   | Not prime farmland   |
| RtB  | Rossmoyne-Urban land complex, gently sloping   | Not prime farmland   |
| RtC  | Rossmoyne-Urban land complex, sloping  | Not prime farmland   |
| RwC3   | Rossmoyne-Bonnell complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded                   | Not prime farmland   |
| SaA  | Sardinia silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes  | All areas are prime farmland   |
| SaB  | Sardinia silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes  | All areas are prime farmland   |
| ScA  | Sciotoville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes   | All areas are prime farmland   |
| SeC2   | Sees silty clay loam, 4 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded                      | Farmland of local importance   |
| SeD2   | Sees silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded                     | Farmland of local importance   |
| Sg   | Shoals silt loam, frequently flooded   | Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| Sh   | Shoals silt loam   | Prime farmland if drained  |
| St   | Stonelick sandy loam   | All areas are prime farmland   |
| Ud   | Udorhents  | Not prime farmland   |
| W  | Water  | Not prime farmland   |
| WsS1A1   | Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes                                  | Prime farmland if drained  |
| WsS1B1   | Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 2 to 4 percent slopes                                  | Prime farmland if drained  |
| WvB  | Williamsburg and Martinsville silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes                      | All areas are prime farmland   |
| WvC2   | Williamsburg and Martinsville silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded  | Farmland of local importance   |
| WvD2   | Williamsburg and Martinsville silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded | Not prime farmland   |

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Clermont County, Ohio  
 Survey Area Data: Version 11, Dec 17, 2013