

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—Fulton County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Ad	Adrian muck, drained, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BcA	Bixler loamy fine sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BnA	Blount loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BnB	Blount loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BoB	Blount-Rimer complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BrB	Boyer loamy sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ByA	Brady sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ch	Cohoctah fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Cn	Colwood loam	Prime farmland if drained
CoB	Colonie fine sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoC	Colonie fine sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoD	Colonie fine sand, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DfA	Del Rey silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DmA	Digby loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DtA	Dixboro fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ee	Eel silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
FtA	Fulton silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FtB	Fulton silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GaB	Galen loamy fine sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gf	Gilford fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
GnB2	Glynwood loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
GnC2	Glynwood loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
GnD2	Glynwood loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
GoC3	Glynwood clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
Gr	Granby loamy fine sand	Farmland of local importance
HkA	Haskins loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HoA	Hoytville clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KfA	Kibbie loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
La	Lamson fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
Lc	Latty silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Lf	Lenawee silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mf	Merrill loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mo	Millgrove loam	Prime farmland if drained
NnA	Nappanee loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NnB	Nappanee loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
OaB	Oakville fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OaC	Oakville fine sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OrB	Oshtemo loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OtB	Ottokee fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
OuB	Ottokee-Glynwood complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
PeB	Perrin sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Pm	Pewamo clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Ps	Psammaquents, nearly level	Not prime farmland
RbB	Rawson sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RnA	Rimer loamy fine sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
SdB	Seward loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
SdC	Seward loamy fine sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SfB2	Shinrock silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
SfC2	Shinrock silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SgB2	Shinrock-Tuscola complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Sh	Shoals silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
So	Sloan silty clay loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
SpB	Spinks fine sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SpC	Spinks fine sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TdA	Tedrow loamy fine sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
TsA	Toussaint silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
TuB	Tuscola fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Uo	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
Wf	Wauseon fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
Zie5A	Ziegenfuss clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Fulton County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 12, Nov 26, 2013