

PRIME FARMLAND
Morton County, North Dakota

Prime farmland is one of several kinds of important farmland defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It 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 qualities, 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. It 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.

A recent trend in land use in some parts of the survey area 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.

The map units in the survey area that are considered prime farmland are listed in the following table. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use. On some soils included in the list, 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. The extent of each listed map unit is shown in the "Acres and Proportionate Extent of Soils" table. The location is shown on the detailed soil maps. The soil qualities that affect use and management are described in other tables in this document."

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Map symbol	Mapunit name	Farmland Classification
8	Straw loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
10	Arnegard loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
10B	Arnegard loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
26	Grail silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
70	Bowbells loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
1	Tonka silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
3	Velva fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
7	Korell loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
11	Amor-arnegard loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
11B	Amor-shambo loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
12C	Amor-cabba loams, 6 to 9 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
17B	Sen-chama silt loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
18B	Reeder-farnuf loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
19	Farland silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
19B	Farland silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
19C	Farland silt loam, 6 to 9 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
20	Shambo loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
20B	Shambo loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
21B	Morton-farland silt loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
27	Belfield-grail silty clay loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
27B	Grail-belfield silty clay loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
29	Savage silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
29B	Savage silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
30	Regent-savage silty clay loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
30B	Regent-savage silty clay loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
36	Lawther silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
38B	Searing-ringling loams, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
49B	Lefor fine sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
52B	Vebar-parshall fine sandy loams, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
53B	Tally-parshall fine sandy loams, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
56	Parshall fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
64	Stady loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
65	Wanagan loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
77	Temvik-wilton silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
77B	Temvik-williams silt loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
88	Havrelon silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
91	Lohler silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
98	Mandan-linton silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
98B	Linton-mandan silt loams, 3 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
186	Havrelon fine sandy loam, slightly wet, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance

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Map symbol	Mapunit name	Farmland Classification
188	Havrelon silt loam, slightly wet, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance

