

PRIME FARMLAND  
SARGENT 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."

PRIME FARMLAND--Continued  
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Map symbol	Mapunit name	Farmland Classification
Aa	Aastad clay loam	All areas are prime farmland
Ab	Aastad loam	All areas are prime farmland
BdB	Barnes-svea loams, undulating	All areas are prime farmland
BdB2	Barnes-svea loams, undulating, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Bf	Bearden silty clay loam	All areas are prime farmland
Dv	Divide loam	All areas are prime farmland
EcA	Eckman silt loam, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
EcB	Eckman silt loam, undulating	All areas are prime farmland
FoB	Forman-aastad loams, undulating	All areas are prime farmland
FoB2	Forman-aastad loams, undulating, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
GgA	Gardena-glyndon loams, sandy substratum, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
GmA	Gardena-glyndon silt loams, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
GoA	Glyndon loam, sandy substratum, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
GsA	Glyndon silt loam, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
Hb	Hamerly complex	All areas are prime farmland
Hf	Hamerly-aastad loams	All areas are prime farmland
Hh	Hamerly-svea loams	All areas are prime farmland
Lp	La prairie silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
OaA	Overly silt loam, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
OcB	Overly silty clay loam, undulating	All areas are prime farmland
Os	Overly-aastad silt loams	All areas are prime farmland
OyA	Overly-bearden silty clay loams, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
SpA	Spottswood-wessington loams, nearly level	All areas are prime farmland
Sv	Svea loam	All areas are prime farmland
An	Arveson fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
Bk	Bearden-tetonka silt loams	Prime farmland if drained
Br	Borup, colvin, and perella soils	Prime farmland if drained
Fc	Fargo clay	Prime farmland if drained
HfA	Hegne-fargo clays	Prime farmland if drained
Hz	Hegne clay	Prime farmland if drained
La	Lamoure silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Tk	Tetonka silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Tp	Tetonka and parnell soils	Prime farmland if drained

