

## 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—Adams County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaA	Aaron silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AaB	Aaron silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BkD	Berks silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BnB	Bratton silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BrC2	Bratton-Opequon complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BsC2	Brushcreek silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BtD2	Brushcreek-Lawshe complex, 12 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CkB	Cincinnati silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CkC2	Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CrB	Crider silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EaE	Eden flaggy silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EaF	Eden flaggy silt loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EgE2	Eden flaggy silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
EgF2	Eden flaggy silty clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
EkB	Elkinsville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EnB	Elkinsville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FaC2	Faywood silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FbD2	Faywood silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FeC2	Faywood-Lowell silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Ge	Gessie loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
JeB	Jessup silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JeC2	Jessup silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Adams County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
JeD2	Jessup silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
JeE2	Jessup silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LbC	Latham silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LbD2	Latham silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LdD	Latham-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LkB	Licking silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LkC2	Licking silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LkD2	Licking silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LoA	Loudon silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LoB	Loudon silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LoC2	Loudon silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LwB	Lowell silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LwC2	Lowell silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
McA	McGary variant silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Ne	Newark silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
NkB	Nicholson silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
No	Nolin silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OmB	Omulga silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OmC2	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
OpD2	Opequon silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
OpE2	Opequon silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
OsF	Opequon silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland
OtB	Otwell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OwB	Otwell silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OwC2	Otwell silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
OxD3	Opequon clay, 6 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
Pe	Peoga silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pq	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
PtB	Plainfield sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RoB	Rossmoyne silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RoC2	Rossmoyne silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SaB	Sardinia silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SbB	Sardinia silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ScB	Sciotoville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SdB	Sciotoville silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ShE	Shelocta-Berks association, steep	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Adams County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
ShF	Shelocta-Berks association, very steep	Not prime farmland
SkE	Shelocta-Brownsville association, steep	Not prime farmland
SkF	Shelocta-Brownsville association, very steep	Not prime farmland
SmD	Shelocta-Muse association, hilly	Not prime farmland
SoE	Shelocta-Muse-Colyer association, steep	Not prime farmland
Sp	Skidmore gravelly loam, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
Sr	Skidmore silt loam, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
TkA	Tilsit silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TrB	Trappist silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TrC	Trappist silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TrD2	Trappist silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
TsF	Trappist-Shelocta association, steep	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents, silty	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WgC	Wernock silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmB	Williamsburg silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WmC2	Williamsburg silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WsS1A1	Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Adams County, Ohio  
 Survey Area Data: Version 11, Oct 3, 2012