

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--Allen County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AkA	Alvada loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
AmA	Alvada silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
ArB	Arkport loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AuA	Aurand loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
AxA	Aurand silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ble1A1	Blount silt loam, end moraine, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ble1B1	Blount silt loam, end moraine, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Blg1A1	Blount silt loam, ground moraine, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Blg1B1	Blount silt loam, ground moraine, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BrA	Blount-Jenera complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BsA	Blount-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CyA	Cygnets loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
DaA	Darroch loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
EmB	Eldean silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FdA	Flatrock silt loam, limestone substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
FnB	Fox loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FnD2	Fox loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FoA	Fox silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FpC2	Fox-Lybrand complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
GaA	Gallman loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GaB	Gallman loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GaC	Gallman loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Allen County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
GbA	Gallman silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GkA	Glynwood loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GkB	Glynwood loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GuB	Glynwood-Urban land complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Gwd1C1	Glynwood silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Gwd5C2	Glynwood clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Gwe1B1	Glynwood silt loam, end moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gwe5B2	Glynwood clay loam, end moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Gwg1B1	Glynwood silt loam, ground moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gwg1C1	Glynwood silt loam, ground moraine, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Gwg5B2	Glynwood clay loam, ground moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Gwg5C2	Glynwood clay loam, ground moraine, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HcA	Hoytville silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HgA	Harrod silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HpA	Houcktown sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HpB	Houcktown sandy loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HrA	Houcktown loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HrB	Houcktown loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HsA	Houcktown silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HsB	Houcktown silt loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HtA	Hoytville silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HuC2	Houcktown-Glynwood complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
KnA	Knoxdale silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
LbF	Lybrand silt loam, 20 to 55 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LcD2	Lybrand silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MbA	Medway silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MmA	Millsdale silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MnA	Milton loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
NpA	Nappanee clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
PaA	Patton silty clay loam, loamy substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
PmA	Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
PoA	Pewamo-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pp	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Ps	Pits, lime	Not prime farmland
Pt	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
RdA	Rensselaer loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Allen County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
ReA	Rensselaer loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RgA	Rensselaer silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RoA	Roundhead muck, loamy substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
SbA	Saranac silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
ScA	Saranac silty clay loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
SdB	Seward loamy fine sand, deep phase, 0 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SfB	Shawtown loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SgC2	Shinrock clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ShA	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SkA	Shoals silt loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SnA	Sleeth silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
SoA	Sloan silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SrA	Sloan silty clay loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
ThB	Thackery sandy loam, sandy substratum, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TkA	Thackery loam, sandy substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TnA	Tiderishi loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
UdA	Udorthents, loamy, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UdD	Udorthents, loamy, 12 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UrB	Urban land, undulating	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WdA	Westland clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WeA	Westland-Rensselaer complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Allen County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 18, 2014