

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--Ashtabula County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Be	Beaches	Not prime farmland
BkA	Blakeslee silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BkB	Blakeslee silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BkC	Blakeslee silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
CaB	Cambridge silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CaC	Cambridge silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CaD	Cambridge silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CcA	Canadice silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CdA	Caneadea silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CdB	Caneadea silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CeA	Caneadea-Canadice silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CfC2	Cardinal silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CfD2	Cardinal silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CfF	Cardinal silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CgA	Carlisle muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkA	Chenango gravelly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CkB	Chenango gravelly loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CkC	Chenango gravelly loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
CkD	Chenango gravelly loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
CoB	Colonie loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
CoD	Colonie loamy fine sand, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
CpB	Colonie-Urban land complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CtA	Conneaut silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
CuA	Conneaut-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DAM	Dam	Not prime farmland
DeC	Darien and Platea silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
DeC2	Darien and Platea silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
DhB	Darien-Hornell silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
EnB	Elnora loamy fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FcB	Fitchville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GaF	Gageville silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GfA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GfB	Glenford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GfC	Glenford silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GfD	Glenford silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
HaA	Harbor fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HaC	Harbor fine sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
HbB	Harbor-Urban land complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HmA	Holly silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HoA	Hornell silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HoB	Hornell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KfA	Kingsville loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
La	Landfills	Not prime farmland
MhA	Mill silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MtA	Mitiwanga silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MtB	Mitiwanga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
OrA	Orrville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
OtA	Otego silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
OuC	Otisville gravelly sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PaA	Painesville fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
PbA	Painesville-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PeC2	Pierpont silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
PeD	Pierpont silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pk	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
PrA	Platea-Darien silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
PrB	Platea-Darien silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
PrB2	Platea-Darien silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
PtB	Platea-Urban land complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PtC	Platea-Urban land complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhA	Red Hook silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RhB	Red Hook silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Rw	Riverwash	Not prime farmland
SbA	Sebring silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
StA	Stanhope silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
ToC	Towerville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ToD	Towerville silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TyB	Tyner-Otisville complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of unique importance
Ud	Udorhents	Not prime farmland
Un	Urban land	Not prime farmland
UrB	Urban land-Elnora complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UtB	Urban land-Tyner-Otisville complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
VeA	Venango silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
VeB	Venango silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WcA	Wick silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
WeA	Willette muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Ashtabula County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 13, Sep 18, 2014