

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—Athens County, Ohio | | |
|---|--|---|
| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| AaC2 | Aaron silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Farmland of local importance |
| AbC | Aaron silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| AdC2 | Aaron-Gilpin complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Farmland of local importance |
| AgC | Aaron-Gilpin complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| BaF | Barkcamp gravelly sandy loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BkD | Berks-Westmoreland silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| BkE | Berks-Westmoreland silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BkF | Berks-Westmoreland silt loams, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BmF | Bethesda channery loam, 20 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BoD | Bethesda shaly silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| BoE | Bethesda shaly silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BoF | Bethesda shaly silty clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BrC | Brookside silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| BrD | Brookside silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| BrE | Brookside silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BtB | Bethesda channery loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| BtC | Bethesda channery loam, 8 to 20 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| BtE | Bethesda channery loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BtF | Bethesda channery loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Chg1AF | Chagrin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| CmC | Clymer loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| DkE | Dekalb loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands--Athens County, Ohio | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| Dol1A1 | Doles silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Prime farmland if drained |
| DsG | Dekalb and Gilpin stony soils, 25 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DtD | Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| DtE | Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DtF | Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DuF | Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, benched, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Dy | Dumps, mine | Not prime farmland |
| EbF | Elba-Brookside-Berks complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| EcA | Euclid silt loam, rarely flooded | Prime farmland if drained |
| FaD | Fairpoint silt loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| FbE | Fairpoint shaly clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| FbF | Fairpoint shaly clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| FcA | Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes | Prime farmland if drained |
| Gal2C1 | Gallia loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GdC | Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GdD | Gilpin silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GdF | Gilpin silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GeD | Germano-Gilpin complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GeE | Germano-Gilpin complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GfB | Glenford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| GgD | Gilpin-Guernsey complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GgE | Gilpin-Guernsey complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GhD2 | Gilpin-Upshur complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded | Farmland of local importance |
| GhE2 | Gilpin-Upshur complex, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| GhF | Gilpin-Upshur complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GkC | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GkD | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GkE | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GkE3 | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded | Not prime farmland |
| GkF | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GIF | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes, benched | Not prime farmland |
| GIG | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes, benched | Not prime farmland |
| GmA | Glenford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| GmB | Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GmC | Glenford silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GoC2 | Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded | Farmland of local importance |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands--Athens County, Ohio | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| GpC | Gilpin-Aaron complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GrC | Gilpin-Upshur silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GrD | Gilpin-Upshur silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GrE | Gilpin-Upshur complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GsB | Guernsey silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GsC | Guernsey silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GuC | Guernsey-Upshur complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GuD | Guernsey-Upshur complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GwC | Guernsey-Westmoreland silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GwD | Guernsey-Westmoreland silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GwE | Guernsey-Westmoreland silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GxD | Guernsey-Gilpin complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| GxE | Guernsey-Gilpin complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GyB | Gallipolis silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Hay1AF | Haymond silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| Hay1AO | Haymond silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded | All areas are prime farmland |
| HcA | Hackers silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, rarely flooded | All areas are prime farmland |
| He | Hartshorn silt loam | All areas are prime farmland |
| KeB | Keene silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| KeC | Keene silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| KnL1AF | Kinnick-Lindside silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| Lck1BO | Licking silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes, occasionally flooded | All areas are prime farmland |
| Lic1B1 | Licking silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Lic1C2 | Licking silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| LoC | Lowell-Upshur complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| LrF | Lowell-Gilpin complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| McA | McGary silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes | Prime farmland if drained |
| Mel1AF | Melvin 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 |
| MnD | Morristown silty clay loam, 6 to 20 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Mos1AF | Moshannon silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| MrF | Morristown channery clay loam, 20 to 70 percent slopes, very stony | Not prime farmland |
| NeC | Negley loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| New1AF | Newark silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |

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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| NgE | Negley gravelly loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| No | Nolin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| Omu1B1 | Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Omu1C1 | Omulga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| Orr1AF | Orrville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| OwB | Otwell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| OwC | Otwell silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| PaB | Parke silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Pg | Pits, gravel | Not prime farmland |
| PpS1AF | Pope-Stokly silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| RcC | Richland loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| RcD | Richland loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| RcE | Richland loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| SkP1AF | Stokly-Philo silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| StD | Steinsburg sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| StE | Steinsburg sandy loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| StF | Steinsburg sandy loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| SvF | Steinsburg-Gilpin association, very steep | Not prime farmland |
| Ud | Udorthents, loamy | Not prime farmland |
| UgC2 | Upshur-Gilpin complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded | Farmland of local importance |
| UgD | Upshur-Gilpin complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| UgE | Upshur-Gilpin complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| UpC | Upshur silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| UpD | Upshur silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| UsC | Upshur-Elba silty clay loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| UsD | Upshur-Elba silty clay loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| UvD | Upshur-Steinsburg complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| UwF | Upshur-Gilpin complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| VaC | Vandalia silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| VbD | Vandalia-Brookside complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| VbE | Vandalia-Brookside complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| VcD | Vandalia-Richland complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| VcE | Vandalia-Richland complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Vin1C1 | Vincent silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands--Athens County, Ohio | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| VqD2 | Vandalia silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| W | Water | Not prime farmland |
| WdB | Wellston silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WdC | Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WeB | Westmore silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WeC | Westmore silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WgD | Westmoreland-Gilpin complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WgE | Westmoreland-Gilpin complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WgF | Westmoreland-Gilpin complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WhC | Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WhD | Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WhE | Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WhF | Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WkF | Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, benched, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WmC | Westmoreland-Upshur complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WmD | Westmoreland-Upshur complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WmE | Westmoreland-Upshur complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WmF | Westmoreland-Upshur complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WnC | Wellston silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WpB | Wheeling loam, 3 to 10 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WqB | Westmore silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| WtB | Woodsfield silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| WtC | Woodsfield silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| Wya1B1 | Wyatt silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Wya3C2 | Wyatt silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| ZnB | Zanesville silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Athens County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 15, Sep 18, 2014