

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--Belmont County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaB	Aaron silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AeC	Allegheny variant loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
As	Ashton silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
BaB	Barkcamp gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BaD	Barkcamp gravelly sandy loam, 8 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BaF	Barkcamp very stony sandy loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BbB	Barkcamp very flaggy sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
BbD	Barkcamp very flaggy sandy loam, 8 to 40 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
BcB	Barkcamp clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BcD	Barkcamp clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeB	Bethesda silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeD	Bethesda silt loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BfB	Bethesda channery loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BfD	Bethesda channery loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BfF	Bethesda channery loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgB	Bethesda channery silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgD	Bethesda channery silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgF	Bethesda channery silty clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhB	Bethesda shaly silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhD	Bethesda shaly silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhE	Bethesda shaly silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Belmont County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BhF	Bethesda very cobbly silty clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsC	Brookside silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsD	Brookside silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsE	Brookside silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BuB	Brookside-Urban land complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BuD	Brookside-Urban land complex, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cf	Chagrin loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Cg	Chagrin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
ChB	Chili gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CmB	Chili-Urban land complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CuB	Culleoka silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CuC	Culleoka silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DeC	Dekalb channery loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkB	Dekalb loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkC	Dekalb loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkD	Dekalb loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkE	Dekalb loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DmF	Dekalb moderately channery loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DnC	Dekalb channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DnD	Dekalb channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DnE	Dekalb channery loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DoF	Dekalb channery loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
Dp	Dumps	Not prime farmland
Ds	Dumps, mine	Not prime farmland
DuB	Duncannon-Urban land complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EbB	Elba silty clay loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EbC	Elba silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EbD	Elba silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EbE	Elba silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EIB	Elkinsville silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EIC	Elkinsville silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EID	Elkinsville silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FbB	Fairpoint gravelly clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FbD	Fairpoint gravelly clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcB	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcD	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FtA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GbB	Gilpin silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
GbC	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GnB	Gilpin silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GnC	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GpC	Gilpin-Lowell complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GpD	Gilpin-Lowell silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
He	Hartshorn silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
KaB	Kanawha loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KeB	Keene silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LeB	Lowell silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LeC	Lowell silt loam, moderately wet, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LeD	Lowell silt loam, moderately wet, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LeE	Lowell silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LeF	Lowell silt loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LgC	Lowell silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoB	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LoC	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoD	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoE	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoF	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LpF	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, benched, 30 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Md	Melvin silt loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
MnB	Morristown clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnD	Morristown clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnE	Morristown clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoB	Morristown stony clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoD	Morristown stony clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoE	Morristown stony clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoF	Morristown very stony clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MpB	Morristown silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MpD	Morristown silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MrB	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
MrD	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
MrE	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
MsF	Morristown channery silt loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes, bouldery	Not prime farmland
Ne	Newark silt loam, 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
Nm	Newark silt loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
Nn	Newark Variant silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Nu	Nolin variant-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
Omm1B1	Omurga silt loam, mixed substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Omm1C1	Omurga silt loam, mixed substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Omu1B1	Omurga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Omu1C1	Omurga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RcC	Richland loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RcD	Richland loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RcE	Richland moderately stony loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhB	Richland silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RkC	Richland channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RkD	Richland channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RnC	Richland silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Uc	Udorthents-Pits complex	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
UpB	Upshur silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WgB	Wellston silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WhB	Wellston silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WhC	Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WjB	Westmore silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WkB	Westmore silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WkC	Westmore silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WkD	Westmore silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WIC	Westmoreland silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmB	Westmoreland silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WmC	Westmoreland silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmD	Westmoreland silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmE	Westmoreland silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmF	Westmoreland silt loam, 35 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmW1D2	Westmoreland-Woodsfield silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WnF	Westmoreland-Berks complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WoC	Westmoreland-Upshur complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WoD	Westmoreland-Upshur complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
WrE	Westmoreland-Dekalb complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WrF	Westmoreland-Dekalb complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ZnB	Zanesville silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ZnC	Zanesville silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Belmont County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 18, 2014