

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—Brown County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Ag	Algiers silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Ah	Algiers silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
AsB	Atlas silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AsB2	Atlas silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
AsC2	Atlas silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
AtC2	Atlas silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BIn3A	Blanchester silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BoD2	Bonnell silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BoE	Bonnell silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BoF	Bonnell silt loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrD3	Bonnell silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
ChF	Chili loam, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cle1A	Clermont silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CnC2	Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not 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
EbE2	Eden flaggy silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
EbF2	Eden flaggy silty clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
EdG2	Edenton loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
EkB	Elkinsville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EkC2	Elkinsville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Brown County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
FbD2	Faywood silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FdD2	Faywood silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FeC2	Faywood-Lowell silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FhB	Fitchville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ge	Genesee silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Gn	Gessie loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HyC3	Hickory clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
JeC2	Jessup silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
JeD2	Jessup silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
JoR1A1	Jonesboro-Rossmoyne silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JoR1B1	Jonesboro-Rossmoyne silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JoR1B2	Jonesboro-Rossmoyne silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
JrC2	Jonesboro-Rossmoyne silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Ju	Jules silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
LnB	Loudon silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LnC2	Loudon silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LoB2	Loudon silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LwB2	Lowell silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MvD2	Morrisville silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
No	Nolin silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
PaC2	Pate silty clay, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
PaD2	Pate silty clay, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
PaE2	Pate silty clay, 25 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RpC2	Rossmoyne silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RrC3	Rossmoyne silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
RwC3	Rossmoyne-Bonnell complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely 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
ScA	Sciotoville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SgA	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Sh	Shoals silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
SoA	Sloan silt loam, sandy substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
W	Water	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Brown County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
WsS1A1	Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WsS1B1	Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WvB	Williamsburg silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Brown County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 15, 2014