

## 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—Erie County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaA	Adrian muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AeA	Algiers silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
AgF	Alexandria silt loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AkA	Allis clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AmD2	Amanda loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AnG	Amanda-Dekalb-Rock outcrop association, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Bc	Beaches	Not prime farmland
BdB	Belmore loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BeA	Bennington loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BgA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BgB	Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BkA	Bixler loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BkB	Bixler loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BvG	Brecksville silt loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CaA	Cardington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CaB	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CbC2	Cardington silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CcA	Castalia very channery loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CcB	Castalia very channery loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CcD	Castalia very channery loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ChB	Chili loam, loamy substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CmA	Colwood loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Erie County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
CnA	Colwood silt loam, bedrock substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CoA	Condit silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CtB	Conotton loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CuC	Conotton gravelly loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DbB	Dekalb channery loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DbD	Dekalb channery loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DeA	Del Rey silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DuA	Dunbridge loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
DuB	Dunbridge loamy sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EcA	Elliott silt loam, bedrock substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
EdB	Ellsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EdC2	Ellsworth silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
EnA	Elnora loamy fine sand, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EoA	Elnora loamy fine sand, bedrock substratum, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EsA	Endoaquents, loamy, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FnA	Fluvaquents, silty, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
FoB	Fox loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FrA	Fries silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FuA	Fulton silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GdA	Gilford fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Gwg1B1	Glynwood silt loam, ground moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HdA	Harrod silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HkA	Haskins loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HoA	Holly silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
HpB	Hornell loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HrB	Hornell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HsA	Hornell silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JtA	Jimtown loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JuA	Joliet silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KbA	Kibbie fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KcA	Kibbie loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MaA	Mahoning silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MaB	Mahoning silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MbB	Marblehead loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MeA	Mermill silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MfA	Milford silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MgA	Millgrove loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
MmA	Millsdale silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MnA	Milton silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MnB	Milton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MrA	Miner silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MsA	Miner silt loam, shale substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MxA	Mitiwanga silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MxB	Mitiwanga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NoA	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OaB	Oakville loamy fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OgA	Ogontz fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OhB	Ogontz silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OmA	Olmsted loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
On	Orrville silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
OpA	Orrville silt loam, bedrock substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
OrA	Orrville silt loam, bedrock substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
OsB	Oshtemo loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PcA	Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Pg	Pits, gravel or sand	Not prime farmland
Pk	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
PmA	Plumbrook fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
PrA	Prout silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RaA	Randolph silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RcA	Rawson sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RcB	Rawson sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RgA	Rimer loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RhA	Ritchey loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhB	Ritchey loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhC	Ritchey loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaA	Sandusky loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
SbF	Saylesville silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ShB	Shinrock silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SkC2	Shinrock silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SkD2	Shinrock silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SpB	Spinks loamy fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SpD	Spinks loamy fine sand, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
SrB	Spinks loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TgA	Tioga loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
TnA	Toledo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
ToA	Toledo silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
TpA	Toledo silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, ponded	Not prime farmland
TuA	Tuscola fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TuB	Tuscola fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
UcB	Udipsamments-Spinks complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UdB	Udorthents, loamy, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WaB	Wakeman sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WaC	Wakeman sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WeA	Weyers silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
ZuC2	Zurich silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ZuD2	Zurich silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ZuE2	Zurich silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ZuF	Zurich silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

## Data Source Information

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