

## 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--Fairfield County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AfB	Alford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AfC2	Alford silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
Ag	Aetna silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Ah	Aetna silt loam, fan, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
AmB	Amanda silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AmB2	Amanda silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
AmC2	Amanda silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
AmD2	Amanda silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
AmE2	Amanda silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AoC3	Amanda silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Farmland of unique importance
AoD3	Amanda silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, severely eroded	Farmland of unique importance
ApB2	Amanda-Loudonville complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
ApC2	Amanda-Loudonville complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
ApD2	Amanda-Loudonville complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
ArC2	Amanda-Ockley complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
ArD2	Amanda-Ockley complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
Bb	Beaucoup silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
BeA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BeB	Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BkF	Berks channery silt loam, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CaB	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CaB2	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CaC2	Cardington silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
CaD2	Cardington silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Cb	Carlisle muck	Farmland of local importance
CdF	Cedarfalls-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CeB	Celina silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CfB	Centerburg silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CfB2	Centerburg silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CfC2	Centerburg silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Cg	Chagrin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
CkC2	Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
CmC2	Cincinnati-Wellston complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
Cn	Condit silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CoB	Corwin silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CrA	Crosby silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CsA	Canal silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ee	Eel silt loam, gravelly substratum, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
EkA	Eldean silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EkB	Eldean silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EnC2	Eldean gravelly loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Eu	Euclid silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
FbA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FhA	Fox loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FhB	Fox loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FhC2	Fox loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
FhD2	Fox loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
FmA	Fox silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FmB	Fox silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GaB	Gallman silt loam, loamy substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GcD	Germano sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GcE	Germano sandy loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GdF	Germano-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Gf	Gessie silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Gg	Gessie silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
GkC	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GkD	Gilpin silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GnB	Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GnC2	Glenford silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HhC2	Hickory silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
HkE	Hickory-Germano complex, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HmD2	Hickory-Gilpin complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HnC2	Homewood silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HoD2	Homewood-Gilpin complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HoE2	Homewood-Gilpin complex, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
JeB	Jeneva silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Km	Kokomo silt loam, overwash	Prime farmland if drained
Ko	Kokomo silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Lk	Lindside silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
LtC2	Loudonville-Steinsburg complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
LtD2	Loudonville-Steinsburg complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of unique importance
LtE	Loudonville-Steinsburg complex, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LtF	Loudonville-Steinsburg complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ma	Marengo clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mb	Marengo silt loam, overwash	Prime farmland if drained
McB	McGary silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Me	Medway silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MkB2	Miamian silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MkC2	Miamian silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
MmC3	Miamian-Thrifton complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Farmland of local importance
MmD3	Miamian-Thrifton complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, severely eroded	Farmland of local importance
Mns3A	Minster silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Mr	Muskego muck	Farmland of local importance
NaD2	Negley loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
NaE	Negley loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ne	Newark silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OcA	Ockley silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OcB	Ockley silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pa	Patton silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pb	Patton silty clay loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Pe	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Ph	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
PkB	Pike silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PkC2	Pike silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Ro	Rockmill silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Rp	Rockmill silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Rt	Rosburg silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Sc	Sebring silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SdD	Shelocta silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
SeE	Shelocta-Berks complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SfD	Shelocta-Cruze complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
SfE	Shelocta-Cruze complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Sh	Shoals silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SkA	Sleeth silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
St	Stonelick sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
TaC2	Tarlton silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
ThA	Thackery silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ThB	Thackery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
Uf	Udorthents, loamy, organic substratum	Not prime farmland
Ug	Udorthents, sandy	Not prime farmland
Um	Urban land-Aetna complex, rarely flooded	Not prime farmland
UoC	Urban land-Amanda complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UrB	Urban land-Bennington complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UtC	Urban land-Cardington complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UuB	Urban land-Celina complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UxB	Urban land-Ockley complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Uy	Urban land-Udorthents complex	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WdA	Wea silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WeC	Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WfC	Wellston-Cruze complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Wg	Westland silt loam, overwash	Prime farmland if drained
Wk	Westland silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
ZnB	Zanesville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ZnC2	Zanesville silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Fairfield County, Ohio  
 Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 18, 2014