

## 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—Geauga County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BgB	Bogart loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BrF	Brecksville silt loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ca	Canadice silt loam	Farmland of local importance
CcA	Caneadea silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CcB	Caneadea silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CdB	Canfield silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CdC	Canfield silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Cf	Carlisle muck, ponded	Not prime farmland
CnA	Chili loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CnB	Chili loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CnC	Chili loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CoC2	Chili gravelly loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
CoD2	Chili gravelly loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CpA	Chili silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CpB	Chili silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CyD	Chili-Oshtemo complex, 6 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CyF	Chili-Oshtemo complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Da	Damascus silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Dm	Damascus loam	Prime farmland if drained
DrA	Darien silt loam, bedrock substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DrB	Darien silt loam, bedrock substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DsB	Darien-Hornell silt loams complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
EhB	Ellsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Geauga County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
EhB2	Ellsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
EhC	Ellsworth silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
EhC2	Ellsworth silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
EhD	Ellsworth silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EhD2	Ellsworth silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
EhE	Ellsworth silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EhF	Ellsworth silt loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EmC	Ellsworth silt loam, shale substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
EmD	Ellsworth silt loam, shale substratum, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EsB	Ellsworth silt loam, sandstone substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FcB	Fitchville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Fr	Frenchtown silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
GaF	Gageville silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GbB	Geeburg silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GbC	Geeburg silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GfB	Glenford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GfC	Glenford silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Ho	Holly silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HsA	Haskins loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HsB	Haskins loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JmA	Jimtown loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JmB	Jimtown loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JtA	Jimtown silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
LrB	Lordstown loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LrC	Lordstown loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LxD	Lordstown-Rock outcrop complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LxF	Lordstown-Rock outcrop complex, 18 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LyB	Loudonville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LyC	Loudonville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
LyC2	Loudonville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MgA	Mahoning silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MgB	Mahoning silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MgC	Mahoning silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
MnB	Mitiwanga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MsA	Mahoning silt loam, shale substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MsB	Mahoning silt loam, shale substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Geauga County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
MtA	Mitiwanga silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MvB	Mitiwanga silt loam, moderately well drained variant, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MvC	Mitiwanga silt loam, moderately well drained variant, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
My	Mill silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Or	Orrville silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
OsB	Oshtemo sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OsC	Oshtemo sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pq	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
PsA	Platea silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
PsB	Platea silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
PtA	Platea-Darien silt loams complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PtB	Platea-Darien silt loams complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ReA	Ravenna silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
ReB	Ravenna silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RmB	Rawson silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RsB	Rittman silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RsC	Rittman silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
RsC2	Rittman silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
RsD	Rittman silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RsE	Rittman silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RsF	Rittman silt loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Sb	Sebring silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Sf	Sheffield silt loam	Farmland of local importance
Tg	Tioga loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
TrA	Trumbull silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
Wa	Wabasha silty clay loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
WbA	Wadsworth silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WbB	Wadsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Wc	Walkkill silt loam, ponded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Geauga County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Wk	Wick 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
Wt	Willette muck, ponded	Not prime farmland
WuD	Wooster silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

### Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Geauga County, Ohio  
 Survey Area Data: Version 15, Sep 19, 2014