

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—Hancock County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AdA	Adrian muck, drained, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AkA	Alvada loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
AmA	Alvada-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AnA	Aquents, clayey, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ApB	Arkport loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ArA	Aurand loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
AsA	Aurand-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgA	Biglick-Milton complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgB	Biglick-Milton complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ble1A1	Blount silt loam, end moraine, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ble1B1	Blount silt loam, end moraine, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Blg1A1	Blount silt loam, ground moraine, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Blg1B1	Blount silt loam, ground moraine, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BnA	Blount loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BpA	Blount-Houcktown complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BrA	Blount-Jenera complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BuA	Blount-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ChC	Channahon-Biglick complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoA	Colwood loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CtA	Cygnets loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CuA	Cygnets-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DbA	Darroch loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DeA	Del Rey silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
DfA	Del Rey-Blount complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DuB	Dunbridge loamy fine sand, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EmA	Elliott silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FbA	Flatrock loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
FcA	Flatrock silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
FdA	Flatrock silt loam, limestone substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
FoA	Fox loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FoB	Fox loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FoC2	Fox loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FsA	Fulton silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FtA	Fulton silt loam, till substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GaB	Gallman loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GfA	Gilford mucky loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GmA	Glynwood loam, limestone substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GsB	Glynwood-Blount-Houcktown complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GuB	Glynwood-Urban land complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Gwd5C2	Glynwood clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Gwe1B1	Glynwood silt loam, end moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gwe5B2	Glynwood clay loam, end moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Gwg1B1	Glynwood silt loam, ground moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gwg5B2	Glynwood clay loam, ground moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Gwg5C2	Glynwood clay loam, ground moraine, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HaA	Harrod silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HcA	Hoytville silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HkA	Haskins fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HnA	Haskins loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HoA	Hoytville clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HpA	Houcktown loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HpB	Houcktown loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HrB	Houcktown-Glynwood-Jenera complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JeA	Jenera fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JeB	Jenera fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JfB	Jenera-Shinrock, till substratum complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
JoA	Joliet loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
KnA	Knoxdale silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Hancock County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
LbA	Lamberjack loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
LcA	Lamberjack-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LuB2	Lucas silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
LyE	Lybrand silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MbA	Medway silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
McA	Medway silt loam, limestone substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MeA	Mermill loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MfA	Mermill clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MgA	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
MpD3	Morley clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
MrA	Morley loam, limestone substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MsB	Morley, limestone substratum-Milton complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MvB	Mortimer silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MwB2	Mortimer silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
NnA	Nappanee loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NnB	Nappanee loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NpA	Nappanee silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NpB2	Nappanee silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Prime farmland if drained
NrA	Nappanee-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OrA	Oshtemo fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OrB	Oshtemo fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OrC	Oshtemo fine sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OsB	Oshtemo sandy loam, till substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OwB	Ottokee loamy fine sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PbA	Patton silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
PmA	Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
PnA	Pewamo-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pt	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
RcA	Randolph silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RgB	Rawson sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RhA	Rensselaer loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RnA	Rimer loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RoA	Rimer loamy fine sand, deep phase, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RtA	Rosburg silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
SeA	Shawtown loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SeB	Shawtown loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
SfB	Shinrock silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SgC2	Shinrock silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SkB	Shinrock, till substratum-Glynwood complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SmA	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SnA	Sloan loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SoA	Sloan silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SpA	Sloan silty clay loam, limestone substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
StB2	St. Clair silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
StC2	St. Clair silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ThA	Thackery loam, till substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TkA	Tiderishi loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
TnA	Toledo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
ToB	Tuscola loamy fine sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TpA	Tuscola fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TpB	Tuscola fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TuB	Tuscola silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
UcA	Udorthents, loamy, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UcD	Udorthents, loamy, 2 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
VaA	Vanlue loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
VeA	Vaughnsville loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WeA	Westland-Rensselaer complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Hancock County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 15, Sep 18, 2014