

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—Hardin County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
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
BpA	Blount silt loam, limestone substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BrA	Blount-Houcktown complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ca	Carlisle muck	Farmland of local importance
Co	Colwood loam	Prime farmland if drained
DeA	Del Rey silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DfA	Del Rey silt loam, till substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ee	Eel silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
FcA	Flatrock silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
FnA	Fox loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FoA	Fox silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FoB	Fox silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FpC2	Fox clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FuA	Fulton silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FuB	Fulton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FvA	Fulton silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Gn	Genesee silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
GwA	Glynwood silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GwD2	Glynwood silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Gwd5C2	Glynwood clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Hardin County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
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
HkA	Haskins silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HkB	Haskins silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KaB	Kendallville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KbA	Kibbie loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KnA	Knoxdale silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
La	Latty silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Le	Latty silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Ln	Linwood muck	Farmland of local importance
MaB	Martinsville loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mc	McGuffey muck	Prime farmland if drained
Mf	Milford silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mk	Millsdale silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mnl3A	Minster silty clay loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Mns3A	Minster silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Mny3A	Minster silty clay loam, gravelly substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MrD2	Morley clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MsC2	Morley-Belmore complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MtB	Morley-Milton silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
NaB	Nappanee silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ne	Newark silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
No	Nolin silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OcA	Ockley loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OcB	Ockley loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ot	Olentangy silt loam	Not prime farmland
Pa	Patton silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
PkA	Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Pm	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Po	Pewamo variant muck	Prime farmland if drained
Ps	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pt	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
Ro	Roundhead muck	Prime farmland if drained
Sa	Saranac silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Hardin County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
SgA	Shoals silt loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
ShB	Shinrock silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SjA	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SkA	Sleeth silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
SmA	Sleeth silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
So	Sloan silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
SrA	Sloan silty clay loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
W	Water	Not prime farmland
Wa	Wallkill silt loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
Wb	Wallkill silt loam	Not prime farmland
We	Westland clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Wf	Westland silty clay loam, clay substratum	Prime farmland if drained

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Hardin County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 18, 2014