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–Marion County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
ApUXA	Aeric Epiaquents-Urban land complex, till substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AqUXA	Aquents, clayey-Urban land complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AtUXB	Alfic Udarents-Urban land complex, till substratum, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BfA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BgA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
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
Bz	Bono silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Cb	Carlisle muck	Not prime farmland
CdB	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CdB2	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CdC2	Cardington silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CeB	Centerburg silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
DdA	Del Rey silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DdB	Del Rey silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DeA	Del Rey silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
EsA	Elliott silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
EtA	Elliott silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Marion County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
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
FtA	Fulton silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FtB	Fulton silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
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
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
Gwg1B2	Glynwood silt 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
KeB	Kendallville loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KeD2	Kendallville loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
KfA	Kibbie loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
La	Latty silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Le	Lenawee silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Lu	Luray silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
MaA	Martinsville loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MaB	Martinsville loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mc	Medway silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Md	Medway silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
Me	Medway clay loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Mf	Milford silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mg	Millgrove silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
MhA	Millgrove silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MnB	Milton silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MrF2	Morley silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Mu	Muskego muck	Not prime farmland
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
OdB	Ockley silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OnUXB	Orthents, clayey-Urban land complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pa	Paulding clay	Not prime farmland
Pk	Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Marion County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
Pm	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Ps	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pt	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
Ro	Rossburg silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Sa	Saranac silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Sc	Saranac silty clay loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
ShB	Shinrock silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ShC2	Shinrock silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Sj	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SkA	Sleeth loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
SmA	Sleeth silt loam, loamy substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
So	Sloan silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Sp	Sloan silty clay loam, till substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
St	Stone clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
TrB	Tiro silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
TyUXA	Typic Endoaquents-Urban land complex, till substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UAzXA	Urban land-Aquents, clayey, complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
UEBXA	Urban land-Aeric Epiaquents-Blount complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UFGXB	Urban land-Alfic Udarents-Glynwood complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UOrXB	Urban land-Orthents, clayey, complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
UTWXA	Urban land-Typic Endoaquents-Pewamo complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
We	Westland clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
WhA	Whitaker loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Marion County, Ohio
Survey Area Data: Version 16, Sep 19, 2014