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–Mercer 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
BnA	Blount loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BoB2	Blount silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Prime farmland if drained
Ca	Carlisle muck	Not prime farmland
DgA	Del Rey silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DmA	Digby loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DmB	Digby loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ed	Edwards muck	Not prime farmland
Ee	Eel silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
ElB	Eldean loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ElC2	Eldean loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
EoB	Elliott silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GaB	Gallman sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GbB	Gallman loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gn	Genesee silt loam	All areas are 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
Gwe1B2	Glynwood silt 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

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Mercer County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
Gwg5C2	Glynwood clay loam, ground moraine, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Gwg5C3	Glynwood clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
GwM5C3	Glynwood-Mississinewa clay loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
HnA	Haskins loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HnB	Haskins loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
McA	McGary silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
McB	McGary silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Mf	Millgrove clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mg	Millgrove silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mh	Millsdale silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
MnI3A	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
MrD2	Morley silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MrE2	Morley silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MsD3	Morley clay loam, 9 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not 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
On	Olentangy mucky silt loam	Not prime farmland
Pm	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pn	Pewamo silty clay loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
Po	Pewamo silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Ps	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Qu	Quarries	Not prime farmland
RmB	Rawson loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sac3AF	Saranac silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
SaS3AF	Saranac-Spencerville silty clay loams, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Sho1AO	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Sho3AF	Shoals silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Slo3AF	Sloan silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
So	Sloan silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Mercer County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
Ud	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
Wg	Wabasha silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Wh	Wabasha silty clay	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Mercer County, Ohio
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 19, 2014