

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—Richland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AcD2	Alexandria silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AdB	Alexandria silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AdC	Alexandria silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
AdC2	Alexandria silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Farmland of local importance
AdD	Alexandria silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AdD2	Alexandria silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
AdE	Alexandria silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AdE2	Alexandria silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
AdF	Alexandria silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AeD3	Alexandria silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
Ag	Algiers silt loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
BeB	Belmore loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BeC	Belmore loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BeD	Belmore loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BnA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BnB	Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BnB2	Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Prime farmland if drained
BpB	Bennington-Fitchville silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BrB	Berks channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrC	Berks channery silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrD	Berks channery silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Richland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BsF	Berks-Rock outcrop complex, steep	Not prime farmland
BtA	Bogart loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BtB	Bogart loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BvA	Bogart silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BvB	Bogart silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BwC	Brownsville channery silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BwD	Brownsville channery silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BxE	Brownsville-Westmoreland complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CdB	Canfield silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CdB2	Canfield silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CdC	Canfield silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CdC2	Canfield silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CgB	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CgB2	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CgC	Cardington silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CgC2	Cardington silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Farmland of local importance
ChC3	Cardington silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
Ck	Carlisle muck	Not prime farmland
CmB	Chili silt loam, 2 to 6 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
CoD	Chili and Conotton soils, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoD3	Chili and Conotton soils, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
CoE	Chili and Conotton soils, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoF	Chili and Conotton soils, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cp	Condit silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Cr	Condit silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Cs	Condit-Bennington silt loams	Prime farmland if drained
CtC	Conotton gravelly loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CvC	Coshocton loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DmB	Digby loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FbA	Fitchville silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
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
FdA	Fitchville-Bennington silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FgA	Fitchville silt loam, gravelly subsoil variant, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FgB	Fitchville silt loam, gravelly subsoil variant, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Fr	Frenchtown silt loam	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Richland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
GdB	Gilpin silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GdC	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GfA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
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
GrB	Gresham silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HaB	Haney loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HfB	Hanover silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HfC	Hanover silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
HfC2	Hanover silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Farmland of local importance
HfC3	Hanover silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
HfD	Hanover silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HfD2	Hanover silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
HfE	Hanover silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ho	Holly silt loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HpB	Homewood silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HpC	Homewood silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HpD2	Homewood silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HpE2	Homewood silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
JtA	Jimtown loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
KbA	Kibbie loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
La	Landes fine sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
LfB	Latham silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LfC	Latham silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Lg	Lenawee silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Lk	Linwood muck	Not prime farmland
Lo	Lobdell silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
LrB	Lordstown silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LrC	Lordstown silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
LrD	Lordstown silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LrE	Lordstown silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LrF	Lordstown silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LtE	Lordstown and Loudonville silt loams, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LtF	Lordstown and Loudonville silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LvB	Loudonville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LvC	Loudonville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
LvD	Loudonville silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Ly	Luray silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
LzB	Lykens silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MeB	Mentor silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MeC	Mentor silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Op	Olmsted silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Or	Orrville loam, moderately shallow variant	Prime farmland if drained
Pa	Pewamo silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pc	Pewamo silt loam, overwash	Prime farmland if drained
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pm	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
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
RsB	Rittman silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RsB2	Rittman silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	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, moderately eroded	Farmland of local importance
RsD	Rittman silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RsD2	Rittman silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
RtC3	Rittman silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
RtD3	Rittman silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
SaC	Schaffemaker loamy sand, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaD	Schaffemaker loamy sand, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaE	Schaffemaker loamy sand, 18 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SbE	Schaffemaker loamy sand, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Se	Sebring silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Sh	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Sk	Shoals loam, coarse subsoil variant	Prime farmland if drained
SmA	Sleeth silt loam, loamy substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
So	Sloan silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
TmA	Tiro silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
TmB	Tiro silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
TvB	Titusville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TvC	Titusville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Uc	Udorthents	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Richland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
WaA	Wadsworth silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WaB	Wadsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Wc	Wallkill silt loam	Farmland of local importance
WeD	Westmoreland silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WhA	Wheeling silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WhB	Wheeling silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WhC	Wheeling silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmD	Wheeling and Mentor silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WsB	Wooster silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WsB2	Wooster silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	All areas are prime farmland
WsC	Wooster silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WsC2	Wooster silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Farmland of local importance
WsD	Wooster silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WsD2	Wooster silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
WsD3	Wooster silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
WsE	Wooster silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WsE2	Wooster silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WsF	Wooster silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WtB	Wooster-Chili soils, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WtC	Wooster-Chili soils, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WvE3	Wooster silt loam, 18 to 40 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Richland County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 10, Sep 19, 2014