

## 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--Ross County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Aa	Adrian muck	Not prime farmland
AcC2	Alexandria silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AcD2	Alexandria silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AcE2	Alexandria silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AeE2	Alexandria-Fox complex, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BeD	Berks channery silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeE	Berks channery silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgC	Berks-Tarhollow complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CaB	Cana silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CaC2	Cana silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CaD2	Cana silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CaE2	Cana silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Cd	Carlisle muck	Not prime farmland
CeD	Casco-Rodman complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CgA	Celina silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CgB	Celina silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CgB2	Celina silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
ChA	Chavies silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
CmA	Cidermill silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CmB	Cidermill silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Cp	Clifty silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
CrA	Coolville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CrB	Coolville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
CrC2	Coolville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CvA	Crosby silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CvB	Crosby silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CwC2	Cruze silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CwD	Cruze silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CwE	Cruze silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DAM	Dam	Not prime farmland
EeA	Eldean loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EeB	Eldean loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EeC2	Eldean loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
EgA	Eldean gravelly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EgB	Eldean gravelly loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EgC2	Eldean gravelly loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ErD	Ernest silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EuA	Euclid silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
FhA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FhB	Fitchville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FnB	Fox loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FnC2	Fox loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Ge	Gessie silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Gf	Gessie silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
GgC2	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GhC	Gilpin-Tilsit complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GnA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GnB	Glenford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HaB	Haubstadt silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HaC2	Haubstadt silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Hd	Haymond silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
HeA	Henshaw silt loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HkD2	Hickory silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HkE2	Hickory silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Ht	Huntington silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
KaA	Kendallville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KaB	Kendallville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KeC2	Kendallville-Eldean complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
KeD2	Kendallville-Eldean complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
KeE2	Kendallville-Eldean complex, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Ross County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Kn	Kinn silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ko	Kokomo silt loam, overwash	Prime farmland if drained
Kp	Kokomo silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
LfC2	Latham silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LfD2	Latham silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LfE	Latham silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LgD	Latham-Wharton complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LrB	Libre silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LrC2	Libre silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MaB	Markland silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MbC2	Markland silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MbD2	Markland silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MbE2	Markland silty clay loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
McA	Martinsville loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MdA	McGary silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MdB	McGary silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MeC2	Mentor silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MeD2	Mentor silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MfA	Mentor silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MgA	Mentor silt loam, gravelly substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MgB	Mentor silt loam, gravelly substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MhB	Miamian silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MhB2	Miamian silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
MhC2	Miamian silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MhD2	Miamian silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MhE	Miamian silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MmC2	Miamian silt loam, bedrock substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MmD2	Miamian silt loam, bedrock substratum, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MnB	Miamian-Lewisburg complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MoB	Milton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MoC2	Milton silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MoE2	Milton silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NeC2	Negley loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NeD2	Negley loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NeE2	Negley loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NnA	Nineveh silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
NnB	Nineveh silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
ObA	Ockley loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ObB	Ockley loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OmB	Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OmC2	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Or	Orrville silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
OwB	Otwell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pc	Patton silty clay loam, sandy substratum	Prime farmland if drained
Pg	Peoga silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
PkA	Pike silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PkB	Pike silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pn	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Po	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
Pp	Pope silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
PtB	Princeton sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PtC	Princeton sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PtD	Princeton sandy loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RbA	Rainsboro silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RbB	Rainsboro silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RbC2	Rainsboro silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RcF	Rigley-rock outcrop association, very steep	Not prime farmland
RdD2	Rodman gravelly loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RdE2	Rodman gravelly loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Rn	Ross silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ro	Rosburg silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
RpA	Rossmoyne silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RpB	Rossmoyne silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RpC2	Rossmoyne silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RsB	Rossmoyne-Cana complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RsC2	Rossmoyne-Cana complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SfD	Shelocta silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SgF	Shelocta-Brownsville association, very steep	Not prime farmland
ShE	Shelocta-Cruze-Weikert association, steep	Not prime farmland
SkE	Shelocta-Rigley association, steep	Not prime farmland
Sp	Skidmore cobbly silt loam, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
St	Sloan silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
SuB	Spargus channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Sv	Stonelick loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Sw	Stonelick fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
TbA	Taggart silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
ThC3	Thrifton clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
ThD3	Thrifton clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
ThE3	Thrifton clay loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
TnA	Tilsit silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
To	Tioga fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
TyA	Tyler silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ud	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WcA	Warsaw loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Wk	Westland clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
WsS1A1	Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WsS1B1	Westboro-Schaffer silt loams, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
WTB	Wyatt silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Wyc2	Wyatt silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WyD2	Wyatt silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Ross County, Ohio  
 Survey Area Data: Version 15, Sep 19, 2014