

## 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—Shelby County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Af	Algiers silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Ag	Algiers silt loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
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
Bs	Brookston silty clay loam, fine texture, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ca	Carlisle muck	Not prime farmland
CdD2	Casco-Eldean complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
CeA	Celina silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CeB	Celina silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CnA	Crane silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CrA	Crosby silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CrB	Crosby silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DmA	Digby loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ee	Eel silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ef	Eel Variant silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
EIA	Eldean loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EIB	Eldean loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EIC	Eldean loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EoC2	Eldean-Casco complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Shelby County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
EsB2	Eldean-Morley complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
EsC2	Eldean-Morley complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FoC2	Fox-Miami silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
Ge	Genesee silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
GID2	Glynwood silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
GmD3	Glynwood clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely 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
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
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
Md	Medway silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MhB	Miamian silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MhC2	Miamian silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MhD2	Miamian silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MhE	Miamian silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MhE2	Miamian silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MhF	Miamian silt loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MIC3	Miamian clay loam, shallow to dense till substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
Mm	Millgrove clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
MnF	Miamian and Hennepin silt loams, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
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
MoB	Milton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MxE	Morley silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MxF	Morley silt loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ObA	Ockley silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ObB	Ockley silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OcA	Ockley silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OdA	Odell silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
OdB	Odell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Pa	Patton silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Shelby County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Pd	Pewamo silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pe	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Sho1AO	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
St	Stonelick sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ud	Udorhents	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
Wb	Wallkill silty clay loam	Not prime farmland
WdA	Warsaw Variant silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

### Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Shelby County, Ohio  
 Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 19, 2014