

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—Van Wert County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BIB	Belmore sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
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
BmA	Belmore loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BmB	Belmore loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BmC	Belmore loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BnA	Blount loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BnB	Blount loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BoB2	Blount silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Prime farmland if drained
Cp	Clay pits	Not prime farmland
Cw	Colwood silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Cx	Cut and fill land	Not prime farmland
De	Defiance silt loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Df	Defiance silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
DgA	Digby sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
DgB	Digby sandy loam, 2 to 6 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

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Van Wert County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Em	Eel silt loam	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
EoB	Elliott silt loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GaB	Gallman sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	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
Gwg5B2	Glynwood clay loam, ground moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Gwg5C2	Glynwood clay loam, ground moraine, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HaB	Haney sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HcA	Hoytville silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HdA	Haney loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HdB	Haney loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HkA	Haskins fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HkB	Haskins fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HnA	Haskins loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HnB	Haskins loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Hs	Hoytville silty clay loam, moderately shallow variant	Prime farmland if drained
HtA	Hoytville silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ks	Kibbie silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
La	Latty silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Lb	Latty silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Lc	Latty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Mc	McGary silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Md	Mermill silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Me	Millgrove silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Mg	Millgrove silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
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
MoB	Glynwood loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MrD2	Morley silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
NaA	Nappanee loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NpA	Nappanee silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NpB	Nappanee silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NsA	Nappanee clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Van Wert County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
NtA	Nappanee silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NtB	Nappanee silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
NtB2	Nappanee silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Prime farmland if drained
Pk	Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Pm	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Po	Pewamo silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
Qu	Quarry	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
SbA	Saranac silty clay loam, till substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
ScB	St. Clair silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ScC2	St. Clair silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
SdC2	St. Clair silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
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
Tic3AF	Tice 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
To	Toledo silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
W	Water	Not prime farmland
Wa	Wabasha silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Wb	Wabasha silty clay loam, moderately shallow variant	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Wh	Wabasha silty clay	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Van Wert County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 13, Sep 19, 2014