

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—Washington County, Ohio | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| AfB | Alford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| AfC | Alford silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| AIB | Allegheny silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| AIC | Allegheny silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| AID | Allegheny silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| AIG | Allegheny silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| AsA | Ashton silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| AsB | Ashton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| BeC | Belpre clay, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BeD | Belpre clay, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BeE | Belpre clay, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BeF | Belpre clay, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BsC | Brookside silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BsD | Brookside silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BsE | Brookside silty clay loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| BtF | Brookside bouldery silty clay loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Cg | Chagrin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded | All areas are prime farmland |
| ChA | Chili loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| ChB | Chili loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| ChC | Chili loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Chg1AF | Chagrin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| CIC | Clymer silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |

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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| CID | Clymer silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| CoA | Conotton gravelly loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| CpE | Conotton-Chili gravelly loams, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DkC | Dekalb loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DkD | Dekalb loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DkE | Dekalb loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DkF | Dekalb loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DsG | Dekalb and Gilpin stony soils, 25 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DtB | Duncannon silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| DtC | Duncannon silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DuD | Duncannon-Lakin complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| DuE | Duncannon-Lakin complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| EID | Elba-Belpre complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| EIE | Elba-Belpre complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| EIF | Elba-Belpre complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Gal2B1 | Gallia loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Gal2C1 | Gallia loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Gal2D1 | Gallia loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 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 |
| GdD | Gilpin silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GdE | Gilpin silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GdF | Gilpin silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GkC | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GkD | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GkD3 | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded | Not prime farmland |
| GkE | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GkE3 | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded | Not prime farmland |
| GkF | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| GIF | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes, benched | Not prime farmland |
| GIG | Gilpin-Summitville-Upshur complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes, benched | Not prime farmland |
| GnA | Glenford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| GnB | Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Hay1AO | Haymond silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded | All areas are prime farmland |
| HcA | Hackers silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, rarely flooded | All areas are prime farmland |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands--Washington County, Ohio | | |
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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| HcB | Hackers silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, rarely flooded | All areas are prime farmland |
| HcC | Hackers silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| He | Hartshorn silt loam | All areas are prime farmland |
| HgB | Hayter loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| HgC | Hayter loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| HgD | Hayter loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| HgE | Hayter loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| HgF | Hayter loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| HhE | Hayter very stony soils, 18 to 30 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| HkE | Hayter-Vandalia channery loams, 12 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| HkF | Hayter-Vandalia stony complex, 25 to 50 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Hu | Huntington silt loam | All areas are prime farmland |
| KeB | Keene silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| KeC | Keene silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| KnL1AF | Kinnick-Lindsay silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| LbC | Lakin loamy fine sand, 3 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| LbD | Lakin loamy fine sand, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Lic1B1 | Licking silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Lic1C2 | Licking silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| Lic1D2 | Licking silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| LoC | Lowell-Upshur complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| LoD | Lowell-Upshur complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| LoE | Lowell-Upshur complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| LoF | Lowell-Upshur complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| MbB | Markland silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| MbC | Markland silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| MbD2 | Markland silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded | Not prime farmland |
| MbG | Markland silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| McA | McGary silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Prime farmland if drained |
| MeA | Mentor silt loam, 0 to 2 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 |
| Mel1AF | Melvin silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| Mos1AF | Moshannon silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |

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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| New1AF | Newark silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded | Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
| Nn | Newark silt loam | Prime farmland if drained |
| No | Nolin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded | All areas are prime farmland |
| Omu1B1 | Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Omu1C1 | Omulga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| OmV1B1 | Omulga-Vincent silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| OmV1C1 | Omulga-Vincent silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| OtB | Otwell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| OtC | Otwell silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| OvB | Otwell-Vincent silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| OvC | Otwell-Vincent silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Pe | Peoga silt loam | Prime farmland if drained |
| Pg | Pits, gravel | Not prime farmland |
| Pu | Pits, quarry | Not prime farmland |
| SaB | Sparta loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| SM | Strip mine spoil, calcareous | Not prime farmland |
| SP | Strip mine spoil, acidic (toxic) | Not prime farmland |
| SuD | Summitville silt loam, 10 to 20 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| TaA | Taggart silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Prime farmland if drained |
| Tg | Tioga fine sandy loam | All areas are prime farmland |
| Ub | Udipsamments | Not prime farmland |
| Ud | Udorthents | Not prime farmland |
| Uf | Udorthents, clayey | Not prime farmland |
| Uh | Udorthents, loamy | Not prime farmland |
| UpB | Upshur silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| UpC | Upshur silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| UpD | Upshur silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| UpE | Upshur silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| UrD3 | Upshur clay, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded | Not prime farmland |
| UrE3 | Upshur clay, 18 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded | Not prime farmland |
| UsF | Upshur-Gilpin complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| UsF3 | Upshur-Gilpin complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes, severely eroded | Not prime farmland |
| UTG | Upshur association, very stony, 25 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| UX | Urban land | Not prime farmland |
| VaC | Vandalia silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| VaD | Vandalia silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| VaE | Vandalia silty clay loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |

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| Map Symbol | Map Unit Name | Farmland Classification |
| VaF | Vandalia silty clay loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Vin1B1 | Vincent silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Vin1C1 | Vincent silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Vin1D1 | Vincent silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| W | Water | Not prime farmland |
| WaB | Watertown gravelly loamy sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WbA | Watertown sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WbB | Watertown sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WbC | Watertown sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WhB | Wellston silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| WhC | Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WhD | Wellston silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WkF | Westmore-Lowell-Elba complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WkG | Westmore-Lowell-Elba complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WIF | Westmore-Lowell-Elba complex, 25 to 35 percent slopes, benched | Not prime farmland |
| WIG | Westmore-Lowell-Elba complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes, benched | Not prime farmland |
| Wml1D2 | Westmoreland silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| WmW1D2 | Westmoreland-Woodsfield silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| WrA | Wheeling silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| WrB | Wheeling silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| WrC | Wheeling silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WrD | Wheeling silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WrF | Wheeling silt loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WtB | Woodsfield silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| WtC | Woodsfield silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| WtD | Woodsfield silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| Wya1B1 | Wyatt silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| Wya3C2 | Wyatt silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| Wya3D2 | Wyatt silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| WzB | Woodsfield-Zanesville silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| WzC | Woodsfield-Zanesville silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| ZnB | Zanesville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| ZnC | Zanesville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Washington County, Ohio
Survey Area Data: Version 9, Sep 19, 2014