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–Ashland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
AdC2	Alexandria silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
AdD2	Alexandria silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AdE	Alexandria silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AdF	Alexandria silt loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AeD2	Alexandria silty clay loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, 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
AmE	Amanda loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgB	Bogart loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are 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
BoA	Bennington-Tiro silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BrD	Berks channery silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsG	Berks-Rock outcrop complex, 30 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BtA	Bogart gravelly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BtB	Bogart gravelly 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
BxF	Brownsville-Rock outcrop complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ByD	Brownsville channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ByE	Brownsville channery silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Ashland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
BzE	Brownsville-Westmoreland complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BzF	Brownsville-Westmoreland complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CaB	Canfield silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CaC	Canfield silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CaC2	Canfield silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CdB	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CdB2	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
CdC	Cardington silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CdC2	Cardington silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CeC3	Cardington silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
Cf	Carlisle muck	Farmland of local importance
CgA	Chili loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CgB	Chili loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CgC	Chili loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
CgC2	Chili loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CgD2	Chili loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ChC	Chili-Wooster complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
ChD	Chili-Wooster complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ChE	Chili-Wooster complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkD	Chili and Conotton gravelly loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkE	Chili and Conotton gravelly loams, 18 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ClC	Chili gravelly loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ClD2	Chili gravelly loam, 12 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not 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
Cn	Condit silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
CoD	Chili and Conotton soils, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoE	Chili and Conotton soils, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CpB	Chili silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Cr	Condit silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CsC	Conotton gravelly loam, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CtD	Conotton Variant gravelly loam, 10 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CuE	Chili-Amanda complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CvB	Coshocton loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CvC	Coshocton loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CxB	Coshocton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CxC2	Coshocton silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ElB	Ellsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Ashland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
ElB2	Ellsworth silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
ElC2	Ellsworth silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ElE2	Ellsworth silt loam, 12 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
ElF	Ellsworth silt loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FbA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FbB	Fitchville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FgA	Fitchville silt loam, gravelly subsoil variant, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Fr	Frenchtown silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
GaB	Gilpin silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GaC	Gilpin silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GbC	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
HaA	Haskins silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
HkA	Haskins loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Ho	Holly silt loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
JmA	Jimtown loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JoB	Jimtown loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JwA	Jimtown silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
JwB	Jimtown silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Kb	Killbuck silt loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
LfB	Latham silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ln	Linwood muck	Farmland of local importance
Lo	Lobdell silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
LtB	Lordstown silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LtC	Lordstown silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LtD	Lordstown silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LtE	Lordstown silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LtF	Lordstown silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LuE	Lordstown and Loudonville silt loams, 18 to 25 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

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Ashland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
LvE	Loudonville silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ly	Luray silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
LzB	Lykens silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MaA	Mahoning silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MaB	Mahoning silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
MaB2	Mahoning silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	Prime farmland if drained
MeC2	Mechanicsburg silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Om	Orrville silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Or	Orrville silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Os	Orrville Variant silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
OtB	Oshtemo sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OtC	Oshtemo sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
OvB	Oshtemo fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pc	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
RnA	Ravenna silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RnB	Ravenna silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
RoB	Rawson loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RrC	Rigley sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RsB	Rittman silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RsB2	Rittman silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, 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, eroded	Farmland of local importance
RsD2	Rittman silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SaD	Schaffenaker loamy sand, 12 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScE	Schaffenaker loamy sand, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Sg	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
Sn	Sloan silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
TkA	Tiro silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
ToA	Tiro silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
TvC	Titusville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TyA	Trumbull silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Ashland County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
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
Wb	Wallkill silt loam	Farmland of local importance
WcC2	Wooster-Chili complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WcD2	Wooster-Chili complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
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	Farmland of local importance
WsB	Wooster silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	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	Not prime farmland
WsD2	Wooster silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WsE	Wooster silt loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WtE	Wooster silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WuB	Wooster-Riddles silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WuC	Wooster-Riddles silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WuD2	Wooster-Riddles silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Ashland County, Ohio
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 19, 2014