

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—Guernsey County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaB	Aaron silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AaC	Aaron silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AaC2	Aaron silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AbB	Aaron-Upshur complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AbC2	Aaron-Upshur complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AgC	Allegheny loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BaD	Barkcamp loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BcB	Barkcamp very flaggy sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
BcD	Barkcamp very flaggy sandy loam, 8 to 40 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
BeC	Berks channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeD	Berks channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeE	Berks channery silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeF	Berks channery silt loam, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgB	Bethesda clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgD	Bethesda clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgE	Bethesda clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhB	Bethesda channery loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhD	Bethesda channery loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhF	Bethesda channery loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkD	Brookside silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkE	Brookside silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Guernsey County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BrC2	Brookside silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BrE	Brookside silty clay loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsD	Brookside silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsD2	Brookside silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BtC	Brookside-Vandalia complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BtD	Brookside-Vandalia complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BtD2	Brookside-Vandalia complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BtE	Brookside-Vandalia complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ca	Chagrin loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
CbD	Clarksburg silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ChD	Clarksburg channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkC	Claysville-Guernsey complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CoD	Coshocton loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CsB	Coshocton silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CsC2	Coshocton silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CsD	Coshocton silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkC	Dekalb channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkD	Dekalb channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkE	Dekalb channery loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkF	Dekalb channery loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DmF	Dekalb channery loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
Dp	Dumps	Not prime farmland
Ds	Dumps, mine	Not prime farmland
EbC	Elba silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EbD	Elba silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EbE	Elba silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EkF	Elba-Berks complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EnB	Enoch loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EnD	Enoch loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EuA	Euclid silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
FcB	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcD	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcE	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FtA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
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
GnA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
GnB	Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GpA	Glenford-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GrC	Guernsey silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GrD2	Guernsey silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
GuC	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GuD	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GvD2	Guernsey-Upshur silty clay loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HaF	Hazleton channery loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
HbE	Hazleton channery loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
He	Hartshorn silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ho	Holton silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
KaB	Kanawha loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KeB	Keene silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KeC	Keene silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
KfB	Keene silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KnL1AF	Kinnick-Lindside silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Lc	Lindside silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ld	Lindside silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Le	Lobdell silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
LoB	Lowell silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LoC	Lowell silt loam, moderately wet, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoD	Lowell silt loam, moderately wet, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoD2	Lowell silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LuE	Lowell-Upshur complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LwC	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LwD	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LwE	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LwF	Lowell-Westmoreland silt loams, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LxE2	Lowell-Gilpin complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LxF	Lowell-Gilpin complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
McA	McGary silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Md	Melvin silt loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
MeB	Mentor silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MeC	Mentor silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MeD	Mentor silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MfB	Mentor-Urban land complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
MgB	Mentor silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MnB	Morristown silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnD	Morristown silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoF	Morristown channery clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MrF	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Nd	Newark silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Ne	Newark silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Omu1B1	Omurga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Omu1C1	Omurga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Or	Orrville silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
RcC	Richland channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RcD	Richland channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Sa	Sarahsville silty clay loam, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
Sb	Sarahsville silty clay, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
SeB	Sees silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ub	Udorthents, loamy-Rock outcrop complex	Not prime farmland
Uc	Udorthents-Pits complex	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
Uf	Udorthents, loamy, hilly	Not prime farmland
UmC	Upshur silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UpB	Upshur silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
UrC	Upshur silty clay loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UrC2	Upshur silty clay loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
UrD	Upshur silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UrD3	Upshur silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
VaD2	Vandalia silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
VaE2	Vandalia silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
VtC	Vincent silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
VwB	Vincent silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
W	Water	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
WkB	Westmore silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WkC2	Westmore silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WmC	Westmoreland silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
WmD	Westmoreland silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmE	Westmoreland silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WnF	Westmoreland-Berks complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WoF	Westmoreland-Dekalb complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WrC	Westmoreland-Urban land complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WrD	Westmoreland-Urban land complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WtB	Woodsfield silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WtC	Woodsfield silt loam, 8 to 15 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 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Zp	Zipp silty clay loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Zs	Zipp silty clay loam, ponded	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Guernsey County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 18, 2014