

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--Hocking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaC	Aaron silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AbE	Alexandria silt loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AcC2	Alexandria silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AcE2	Alexandria silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AdD2	Alexandria silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
AdE	Alexandria silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AdF	Alexandria silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AfB	Alford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AfC	Alford silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
AgB	Allegheny loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AgC	Allegheny loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
AmC2	Amanda silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AmD2	Amanda silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AoC3	Amanda silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
BcA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BcB	Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BeA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BkD	Berks-Westmoreland silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkE	Berks-Westmoreland silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkF	Berks-Westmoreland silt loams, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BnC	Berks-Tarhollow complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrD	Berks channery silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrF	Berks channery silt loam, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BtB	Bethesda channery loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BtC	Bethesda channery loam, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BtE	Bethesda channery loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BtF	Bethesda channery loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BuB	Bethesda silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BuC	Bethesda silty clay loam, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BuE	Bethesda silty clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CaC2	Cana Variant silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CaD2	Cana Variant silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CbD2	Cana silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CdB	Cardington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CdC2	Cardington silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CeF	Cedarfalls-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cg	Chagrin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
ChA	Chili loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ChC2	Chili loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
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
CkB	Cincinnati silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CkC2	Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Cp	Clifty silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
CrB	Crosby silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CtC	Cruze silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
DkF	Dekalb-Shelocta-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DtD	Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DtE	Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DtF	Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EcA	Euclid silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
GcE	Germano sandy loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GdF	Germano-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GfA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GfB	Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GgD	Gilpin-Guernsey complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GgE	Gilpin-Guernsey complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GgF	Gilpin-Guernsey complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GkC	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GkD	Gilpin silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GnC2	Glenford silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Hocking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
GuC	Guernsey silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GwD	Guernsey-Westmoreland silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Hay1AF	Haymond silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
HcD2	Hickory-Gilpin complex, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HkD2	Hickory silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HkE2	Hickory silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HmC2	Hickory silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HmD2	Hickory silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HmE	Hickory silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HmF	Hickory silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HrE	Hickory-Germano complex, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
JeB	Jeneva silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are 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	Farmland of local importance
Lic1D2	Licking silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
LnC	Lily silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
LnD	Lily silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Ls	Lindside silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
McA	McGary silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Me	Melvin silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
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
NbC2	Negley loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NeC	Negley silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
NeD	Negley silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
NeE	Negley silt loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NeF	Negley silt loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Nk	Newark silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OcA	Ockley silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 0 to 2 percent slopes	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
Omu1D2	Omulga silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Or	Orrville silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Orr1AF	Orrville 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
OtB	Otwell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OtC	Otwell silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
OtD2	Otwell silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
PkC2	Pike silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Po	Pope loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
PpS1AF	Pope-Stokly silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
RcD	Richland loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RpC2	Rossmoyne silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SaC	Shelocta silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
SaD	Shelocta silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
SbE	Shelocta-Berks complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScD	Shelocta-Cruze silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
ScE	Shelocta-Cruze silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScF	Shelocta-Cruze silt loams, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SdF	Shelocta-Brownsville association, very steep	Not prime farmland
SkP1AF	Stokly-Philo silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
St	Stonelick loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
TaB	Tarhollow silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ud	Udorhents	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WaA	Wea silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WdC	Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WeB	Wellston silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WeC	Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WfC	Wellston-Cruze silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WgC	Wellston-Guernsey silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WhC	Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WmB	Westmore silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WmC	Westmore silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WnB	Westmore silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WnC	Westmore silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WoD	Westmoreland silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WpE	Westmoreland-Berks complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WpF	Westmoreland-Berks complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Hocking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
WrD	Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WrE	Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WrF	Westmoreland-Guernsey silt loams, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WtA	Wheeling silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are 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
ZnB	Zanesville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ZnC	Zanesville silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
ZvC2	Zanesville silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Hocking County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 18, 2014