

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—Jefferson County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AoC2	Aaron silty clay loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BeB	Berks channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
BeC	Berks channery silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BeD	Berks channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkB	Berks channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkC	Berks channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BkD	Berks shaly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BIC	Berks-Aaron complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BmC	Berks-Guernsey complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BmD	Berks-Guernsey complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BmE	Berks-Guernsey complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BnD	Bethesda silt loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BpC	Bethesda very channery clay loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BpF	Bethesda very channery clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsC	Brookside silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsD	Brookside silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BsE	Brookside silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkD	Clarksburg silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CmD	Clarksburg-Urban land complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CnB	Coshocton silt loam, 1 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CoB	Coshocton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CoC	Coshocton silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkE	Dekalb channery loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Jefferson County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
DkF	Dekalb channery loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ds	Dumps, mine	Not prime farmland
EbC2	Elba silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
EbD2	Elba silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
FaC	Fairpoint silt loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FbC	Fairpoint very shaly clay loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FbF	Fairpoint very shaly clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcB	Fitchville variant silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GkB	Gilpin silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GkC	Gilpin silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GmC	Gilpin-Coshocton complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GnB	Gilpin silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GnC	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GnD	Gilpin silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GoC	Gilpin-Coshocton silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GoD	Gilpin-Coshocton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GpC	Gilpin-Lowell silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GpD	Gilpin-Lowell silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
GrC	Gilpin-Lowell complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GsB	Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GsC	Glenford silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GtC	Germano fine sandy loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GtD	Germano fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GuB	Guernsey silt loam, 1 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GvC2	Guernsey silty clay loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
GyC	Guernsey silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HeE	Hazleton channery loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HfE	Hazleton-Summitville complex, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HgE	Hazleton-Westmoreland complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HgF	Hazleton-Westmoreland complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
KeB	Keene silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KnB	Keene silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LmC	Lowell silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LnB	Lowell silt loam, 1 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LnC	Lowell silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoD2	Lowell silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
LoE	Lowell silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LoE2	Lowell silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Jefferson County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
LoF	Lowell silty clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Me	Melvin silt loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
MkD	Morristown silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnA	Morristown silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnC	Morristown silty clay loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MnE	Morristown silty clay loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MoA	Morristown shaly silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
MoC	Morristown shaly silty clay loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
MpF	Morristown channery silt loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes, bouldery	Not prime farmland
MrF	Morristown shaly silty clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes, bouldery	Not prime farmland
MuB	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
MuD	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OIC	Omurga silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Omm1B1	Omurga silt loam, mixed substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Omm1C1	Omurga silt loam, mixed substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Or	Orrville silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
RaB	Richland silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RcB	Richland silt loam, 1 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RcC	Richland silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
RgC	Rigley sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
RgD	Rigley sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
StB	Steinsburg-Rigley variant fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
StC	Steinsburg-Rigley variant fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
StD	Steinsburg-Rigley variant fine sandy loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
Tf	Tioga loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Tg	Tioga silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
ToA	Tioga loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ua	Udorthents, loamy, 2 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ub	Udorthents, loamy	Not prime farmland
Uc	Udorthents-Pits complex	Not prime farmland
Ud	Udorthents-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
UkC2	Upshur-Berks complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
UpC2	Upshur silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Ur	Urban land	Not prime farmland
UsA	Urban land-Chavies complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UtC	Urban land-Gilpin-Lowell complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
UtD	Urban land-Gilpin-Lowell complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UvC	Urban land-Omulga complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UwB	Urban land-Steinsburg complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WeB	Wellston silt loam, 1 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WkC	Westmoreland silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WkD	Westmoreland silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
WmC	Westmoreland-Coshocton silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WnE	Westmoreland-Dekalb complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WIE	Westmoreland-Berks complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WtF	Westmoreland-Berks complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WuF	Westmoreland-Lowell complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WvA	Wheeling silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Jefferson County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 13, Sep 18, 2014