

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—Lawrence County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BcF	Berks-Upshur association, very steep	Not prime farmland
BdD	Bethesda channery silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BdF	Bethesda channery silty clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhF	Bethesda channery clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cg	Chagrin loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
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
CtB	Coolville-Tilsit silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Cu	Cuba silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Cub1AO	Cuba silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Dp	Dumps	Not prime farmland
EkB	Elkinsville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
EkE	Elkinsville silt loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EmB	Elkinsville-Urban land complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FaD	Fairpoint channery silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GIL1D1	Gilpin-Latham silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GUSZE1	Gilpin-Upshur-Steinsburg association, steep	Not prime farmland
KaB	Kanawha silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KaC	Kanawha silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Kg	Kyger loamy sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
LaD	Lakin loamy fine sand, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LaG1D1	Latham-Gilpin silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
LaSXD1	Latham-Steinsburg complex, 15 to 25 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
LtC	Lily loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LtD	Lily loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
McA	McGary silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Me	Melvin silt loam, ponded	Not prime farmland
MrB	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MrD	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MrF	Morristown channery silty clay loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
OmC2	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Omu1C1	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
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
Pe	Peoga silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
PgD	Pinegrove loamy coarse sand, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PgF	Pinegrove loamy coarse sand, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pio1AF	Piopolis 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
Pio1AP	Piopolis silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, ponded	Not prime farmland
PkD	Pinegrove silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pop1AF	Pope silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
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
Ps	Pits, sand and gravel	Not prime farmland
Px	Pope silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
RgLXD1	Rigley-Latham complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RgLZE1	Rigley-Latham association, steep	Not prime farmland
RrG1C1	Rarden-Gilpin silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RrG1D1	Rarden-Gilpin silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RrLXD1	Rarden-Lily complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaB	Sciotoville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SbB	Shelocta silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SbC	Shelocta silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SbD	Shelocta silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
ScB	Sciotoville silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SfE	Steinsburg-Clymer association, steep	Not prime farmland
SgB	Shelocta silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SgC	Shelocta silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ShLZE1	Shelocta-Latham association, 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
SsF	Steinsburg-Shelocta association, very steep	Not prime farmland
St	Stendal silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Stn1AO	Stendal silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SWLZE1	Shelocta-Wharton-Latham association, steep	Not prime farmland
Tg	Tioga loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
To	Tioga loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Ud	Udortheints	Not prime farmland
UgC	Upshur-Gilpin complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UgD	Upshur-Gilpin complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UgE	Upshur-Gilpin complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UgF	Upshur-Gilpin complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
UtF	Upshur-Rock outcrop association, very steep	Not prime farmland
VaD3	Vandalia silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WaB	Watertown sandy loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WeA	Weinbach silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WmB	Wheeling silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
WmC2	Wheeling silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
WoB	Woodsfield silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

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