

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—Licking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AaB	Aaron silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AaC2	Aaron silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Ab	Abandoned Canal	Not prime farmland
AcB	Alford silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AcC2	Alford silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AfA	Alford silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AfB	Alford silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
AfC2	Alford silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
AhB	Alford-Urban land complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ak	Algiers silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
AmB2	Amanda silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
AmC2	Amanda silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
AmD2	Amanda silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
AmE	Amanda silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AmF	Amanda silt loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AvC2	Amanda variant silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
AvD2	Amanda variant silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
BeA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BeB	Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
BfA	Bennington-Urban land complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgB	Berks channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Licking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
BgD	Berks channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhF	Berks-Westmoreland complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BoD	Brownsville channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrC	Brownsville channery silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BrD	Brownsville channery silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
BrE	Brownsville channery silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrF	Brownsville channery silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BrG	Brownsville channery silt loam, 35 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ca	Carlisle muck	Farmland of local importance
CbC	Clarksburg silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CeB	Centerburg silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CeC2	Centerburg silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CfB	Centerburg-Urban land complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CfC	Centerburg-Urban land complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ChA	Chili loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ChB	Chili loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
ChC2	Chili loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
ChD2	Chili loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
ChE2	Chili loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CjC2	Cincinnati silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
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
CmC2	Clarksburg silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CmD2	Clarksburg silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Cn	Condit silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
CoB	Coshocton silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CoC2	Coshocton silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CoD2	Coshocton silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
CoE2	Coshocton silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CpC2	Clarksburg silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CrA	Crane silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
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
CtC2	Coshocton silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FaD	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FcB	Fitchville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
FdB	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 1 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Licking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
FdD	Fairpoint silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FoD2	Fox gravelly loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FoE2	Fox gravelly loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
FrB	Frankstown variant-Mertz complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes, very stony	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
GhB	Gilpin silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GnB	Guernsey silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GnC2	Guernsey silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
GnD	Guernsey silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
HeF	Hazleton-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HfD2	Homewood silt loam, 15 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
HkC2	Hickory silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HkD2	Hickory silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HoB	Homewood silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
HoC2	Homewood silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HoD2	Homewood silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
HoE2	Homewood silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
KeB	Keene silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
KeC2	Keene silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
KeD2	Keene silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
KfC2	Keene silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Kk	Killbuck silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Lu	Luray silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
McB	Mechanicsburg silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
McC2	Mechanicsburg silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
McD2	Mechanicsburg silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
McE	Mechanicsburg silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Md	Medway silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Me	Melvin silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
MnA	Mentor silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MnB	Mentor silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MnC2	Mentor silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
MnD2	Mentor silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
MpD	Mertz very cherty silt loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Licking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
MrE	Mertz very cherty silt loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland
NeC2	Negley loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
NeD2	Negley loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
NeE	Negley loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NeF	Negley loam, 25 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OcA	Ockley silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OcB	Ockley silt loam, Southern Ohio Till Plain, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OcC2	Ockley silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
OeA	Ockley-Urban land complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
OeC	Ockley-Urban land complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Or	Orrville silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
PaC2	Parke silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Pe	Pewamo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pf	Pewamo-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
RdD	Rigley channery loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ReD	Rigley sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RfC	Rigley loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RgC	Rigley fine sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
RgD	Rigley fine sandy loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance
RgE	Rigley fine sandy loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RgF	Rigley fine sandy loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhE	Rigley-Coshocton complex, 18 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhF	Rigley-Coshocton complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RsA	Rush silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Se	Sebring silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Sh	Shoals silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
SkA	Sleeth silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
So	Sloan silt loam, 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
Su	Stonelick-Urban land complex, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
Tg	Tioga fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
TsB	Titusville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TsC2	Titusville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Farmland of local importance
Uf	Udorhents, loamy	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
Wa	Wallkill silt loam, clayey substratum, frequently flooded	Farmland of local importance

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Licking County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Ws	Westland silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
Wt	Westland-Urban land complex	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Licking County, Ohio
Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 19, 2014