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–Pike County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
AcE2	Alexandria silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
AgD	Allegheny Variant loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ah	Algiers silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
BdC	Blairton-Rarden-Gilpin association, rolling	Not prime farmland
BrB2	Bratton silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
BtC2	Bratton-Opequon complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CaE2	Cana silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Cf	Clifty silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
ChD	Clymer loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CkC	Clymer silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CmB	Coolville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CmC2	Coolville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CoB	Coolville silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
CoC	Coolville silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CpC	Coolville-Blairton association, rolling	Not prime farmland
CtC	Coolville-Rarden silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CwC2	Cruze silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
CwE	Cruze silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Dol1A1	Doles silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
En	Elkinsville silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
ErC	Ernest silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FoA	Fox loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
FoB	Fox loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Pike County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
FoC	Fox loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FoC2	Fox loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Ge	Genesee silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Gf	Gessie silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
GpB	Gilpin silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GpC	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GpD	Gilpin silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GtC	Gilpin-Tilsit complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Ha	Haymond silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Hu	Huntington silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Kn	Kinn silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Lah1C1	Latham silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Lah1D1	Latham silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LbD2	Latham silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
LhW1D1	Latham-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LrB	Libre silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MaB2	Markland silty clay loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MaC2	Markland silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MaD2	Markland silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MbC2	Markland silty clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
MbD2	Markland silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
McB	Markland silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
McC2	Markland silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
McD2	Markland silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
MdA	McGary silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Mh	Martinsville loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MkA	McGary silt loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Mn	Melvin silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
MoD	Miami Variant silt loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MpD3	Miamian clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland
Mr	Montgomery Variant silt loam, frequently floooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Mt	Mentor silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
NeC	Negley loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NeC2	Negley loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NeD2	Negley loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NeE2	Negley loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
NgC	Negley loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Pike County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
NgD	Negley loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NgE	Negley loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
NhB	Negley silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OkC2	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
Omu1A1	Omulga silt loam, 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
OoC2	Opequon-Bratton silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
OpD2	Opequon silt loam, 15 to 30 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
OsD2	Opequon silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
OvB	Otwell silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OwA	Otwell silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
OwB	Otwell silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PaA	Parke silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PaB	Parke silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pe	Peoga silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
Pf	Piopolis silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Pg	Pits, gravel	Not prime farmland
Pn	Pits, quarry	Not prime farmland
Po	Pope sandy loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
PrB	Princeton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
PrC	Princeton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
PrD	Princeton fine sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Pu	Purdy Variant silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
RbA	Rainsboro silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RdC	Rarden silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RdC2	Rarden silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RdD	Rarden silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RhC	Richland silt loam, clayey substratum, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RkE	Rigley-Clymer association, steep	Not prime farmland
RnF	Rigley-Rock outcrop association, very steep	Not prime farmland
RrW1C2	Rarden-Wharton silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SgE	Shelocta-Cruze-Weikert association, steep	Not prime farmland
ShD	Shelocta silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Pike County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
Sk	Skidmore silt loam, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
SlF	Shelocta-Brownsville association, very steep	Not prime farmland
SnF	Shelocta-Brownsville association, steep	Not prime farmland
SoF	Shelocta-Rigley association, steep	Not prime farmland
SpF	Shelocta-Latham association, steep	Not prime farmland
Sq	Shoals silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
SrA	Skidmore Variant gravelly loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SrB	Skidmore Variant gravelly loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ss	Stendal silt loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
St	Stonelick loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
SuB	Spargus channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SWLZE1	Shelocta-Wharton-Latham association, steep	Not prime farmland
TbA	Taggart silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
TgA	Taggart silt loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
Th	Taggart silt loam, rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
TkA	Tilsit silt loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TnA	Tilsit silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TrD	Trappist silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
TsF	Trappist-Shelocta association, steep	Not prime farmland
TtC2	Trappist-Muse silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Not prime farmland
TyA	Tyler silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
UoA	Urbanland-Omulga complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WcB	Wellston silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WeB	Wernock Variant silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WhC	Wharton silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WhD	Wharton silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Wm	Wilbur silt loam, occasionally flooded	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

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Pike County, Ohio
Survey Area Data: Version 17, Sep 19, 2014