

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—Vinton County, Ohio		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AbC	Aaron silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BgC	Berks-Tarhollow complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhB	Bethesda silty clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhC	Bethesda silty clay loam, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BhE	Bethesda silty clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BmC	Bethesda channery clay loam, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BmE	Bethesda channery clay loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
BmF	Bethesda channery clay loam, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Bne1AF	Bonnie 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
Bne1AP	Bonnie silt loam, ponded, 0 to 2 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	Chavies silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
ChB	Chavies silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
CmC	Chavies silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cp	Clifty silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
CrC	Clymer silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Cub1AO	Cuba silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
CwD	Cruze silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
CwE	Cruze silt loam, 20 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DkF	Dekalb-Shelocta-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Dol1A1	Doles silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
DtD	Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DtF	Dekalb-Westmoreland complex, 40 to 70 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Dy	Dumps, mine	Not prime farmland
ErC	Ernest silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ErD	Ernest silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
EsC	Ernest silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FaB	Fairpoint clay loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FaC	Fairpoint clay loam, 8 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
FcA	Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
GaC	Germano-Gilpin complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GaD	Germano-Gilpin complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GaE	Germano-Gilpin complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GcC	Gilpin-Aaron complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GdC2	Gilpin silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not 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
GIR1C1	Gilpin-Rarden silt loams, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GIR1D1	Gilpin-Rarden silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GIR1E1	Gilpin-Rarden silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GmC	Gilpin-Tarhollow complex, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
GnA	Glenford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
GnB	Glenford silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
LhW1D2	Latham-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	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
Lic1D2	Licking silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
McA	McGary silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
New1AF	Newark 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
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
OnC2	Omulga silt loam, 6 to 12 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
Ph	Philo silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Phi1AF	Philo silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
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
Pm	Piopolis silt loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Pn	Pope loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Po	Pope loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
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
Pop6AF	Pope fine sandy 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, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Rar1C2	Rarden silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RcD	Richland loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RcE	Richland loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RrW1C2	Rarden-Wharton silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
RrW1D2	Rarden-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	Not prime farmland
SaC	Shelocta silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SaD	Shelocta silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SbE	Sewell channery fine sandy loam, 20 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScD	Shelocta-Cruze silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ScE	Shelocta-Cruze silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SdF	Shelocta-Brownsville association, very steep	Not prime farmland
SfE	Shelocta-Berks complex, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ShLZE1	Shelocta-Latham association, steep	Not prime farmland
ShRZE1	Shelocta-Rarden association, steep	Not prime farmland
Sk	Skidmore gravelly loam, frequently flooded	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
SsE	Steinsburg sandy loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
StE	Steinsburg-Gilpin association, steep	Not prime farmland
StF	Steinsburg-Gilpin association, very steep	Not prime farmland
SvE	Steinsburg-Clymer association, steep	Not prime farmland
TaB	Tarhollow silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
TeB	Tilsit silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

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Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Tg	Tioga fine sandy loam, frequently flooded	Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
Ud	Udorthents	Not prime farmland
W	Water	Not prime farmland
WbC	Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WdC	Wellston silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WeB	Westmore silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WhL1C1	Wharton-Latham silt loams, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WhL1D1	Wharton-Latham silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
WhL1E1	Wharton-Latham silt loams, 25 to 40 percent slopes	Not 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
ZoB	Zanesville silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Vinton County, Ohio
 Survey Area Data: Version 13, Sep 19, 2014