# 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, Florida | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Map Symbol** | **Map Unit Name** | **Farmland Classification** |
| 2 | Ortega fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 3 | Chipley fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 4 | Surrency fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 5 | Fuquay fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| 6 | Dothan loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| 7 | Dothan loamy fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded | All areas are prime farmland |
| 8 | Chaires-Chaires, wet, fine sands, 0 to 2 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 9 | Leon fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 10 | Rains fine sandy loam | Not prime farmland |
| 11 | Lucy loamy fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| 12 | Lucy loamy fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 13 | Orangeburg sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| 14 | Orangeburg sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded | All areas are prime farmland |
| 15 | Orangeburg sandy loam, 8 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| 16 | Blanton fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 17 | Troup fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Farmland of local importance |
| 18 | Troup fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 19 | Bibb loamy sand, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 20 | Albany sand | Not prime farmland |
| 21 | Bonifay fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 22 | Plummer fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 23 | Pelham fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 24 | Fuquay fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |

| Prime and other Important Farmlands–Jefferson County, Florida | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Map Symbol** | **Map Unit Name** | **Farmland Classification** |
| 25 | Pits | Not prime farmland |
| 26 | Sapelo fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 28 | Alpin fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 30 | Pamlico-Dorovan mucks | Not prime farmland |
| 31 | Faceville fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| 32 | Faceville fine sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded | All areas are prime farmland |
| 33 | Leefield fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 34 | Lakeland sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 35 | Rutlege fine sand | Not prime farmland |
| 36 | Lynchburg loamy fine sand | Prime farmland if drained |
| 38 | Miccosukee fine sandy loam | All areas are prime farmland |
| 39 | Cowarts loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 41 | Byars fine sandy loam, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 42 | Faceville loamy fine sand, 8 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| 43 | Alpin fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 44 | Troup fine sand, 8 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 45 | Plummer fine sand, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 46 | Cowarts loamy fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded | Not prime farmland |
| 47 | Nutall-Tooles complex | Not prime farmland |
| 52 | Mascotte sand | Not prime farmland |
| 54 | Leon-Chaires fine sands | Not prime farmland |
| 55 | Lucy loamy fine sand, 8 to 12 percent slopes | Not prime farmland |
| 56 | Tifton gravelly loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes | All areas are prime farmland |
| 57 | Tifton gravelly loamy fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded | All areas are prime farmland |
| 58 | Chiefland-Chiefland, frequently flooded fine sands | Not prime farmland |
| 61 | Tooles-Tooles, depressional-Chaires, depressional, fine sands | Not prime farmland |
| 62 | Nutall-Tooles fine sands, frequently flooded | Not prime farmland |
| 63 | Bayvi muck | Not prime farmland |
| 99 | Water | Not prime farmland |
| 100 | Waters of the Gulf of Mexico | Not prime farmland |

## Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Jefferson County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 24, 2014