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–Wakulla County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
3	Lutterloh sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
4	Alpin sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
6	Bayvi, Isles, and Estero soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
7	Otela fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
8	Otela sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
10	Chaires-Chaires, wet, fine sands, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
11	Shadeville fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
12	Shadeville-Seaboard fine sands, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
14	Ridgewood fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
16	Croatan-Dorovan mucks	Not prime farmland
17	Ortega sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
18	Hurricane sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
19	Kershaw sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
21	Lakeland sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
23	Leon sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
25	Mandarin fine sand	Not prime farmland
26	Tooles-Nutall fine sands	Not prime farmland
27	Moriah-Pilgrims fine sands	Not prime farmland
28	Tooles-Nutall fine sands, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
29	Tooles-Nutall-Chaires fine sands	Not prime farmland
30	Ocilla sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
32	Plummer-Plummer, wet, fine sands, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
33	Pottsburg-Pottsburg, wet, sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Wakulla County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
35	Rutlege sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
36	Rutlege sand, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
37	Sapelo sand	Not prime farmland
38	Scranton sand	Not prime farmland
39	Surrency mucky fine sand	Not prime farmland
44	Tooles-Nutall fine sands, depressional	Not prime farmland
47	Otela-Alpin fine sands, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
48	Otela, limestone substratum-Ortega sands, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
50	Udorthents and Quartzipsamments, excavated	Not prime farmland
51	Goldhead fine sand	Not prime farmland
52	Meggett and Croatan soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
53	Quartzipsamments, dredged	Not prime farmland
54	Maurepas muck, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
99	Water	
100	Waters of the Gulf of Mexico	

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Wakulla County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 9, Sep 26, 2014