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–Lafayette County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
2	Penney sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
4	Blanton-Ortega complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
5	Otela-Penney complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
6	Mouzon-Rawhide, depressional complex	Not prime farmland
7	Chaires-Chaires, depressional complex	Not prime farmland
9	Sapelo-Chaires, depressional complex	Not prime farmland
10	Pamlico and Dorovan soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
11	Pamlico and Dorovan soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
13	Meadowbrook-Chaires complex	Not prime farmland
14	Leon fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
15	Wesconnett and Lynn Haven soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
16	Tooles fine sand	Not prime farmland
18	Surrency, Plummer, and Clara soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
20	Plummer fine sand	Not prime farmland
24	Rawhide and Harbeson soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
26	Ridgewood-Hurricane complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
27	Albany-Ridgewood complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
28	Clara and Meadowbrook soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
29	Fluvaquents, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
31	Chaires, low-Meadowbrook complex	Not prime farmland
32	Chaires and Meadowbrook soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
33	Tooles-Meadowbrook, limestone substratum-Rawhide complex, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands–Lafayette County, Florida		
Map Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Farmland Classification**
34	Ortega fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
36	Wampee fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
37	Pantego and Surrency soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
38	Pantego and Surrency soils, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
39	Eunola fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
41	Meadowbrook and Harbeson soils, depressional	Not prime farmland
42	Sapelo, low-Clara-Surrency, depressional complex	Not prime farmland
43	Garcon-Albany-Meadowbrook complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
44	Albany-Ousley-Meadowbrook complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
45	Wekiva-Rawhide-Tooles complex, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
46	Tooles-Rawhide complex, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
48	Otela, limestone substratum-Shadeville-Penney complex 0 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
52	Mandarin fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
53	Penney sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
54	Garcon-Eunola complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland
99	Water	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Lafayette County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Sep 16, 2016