

Prime and Important Farmlands in New York

Three farmland classes are recognized in New York:

Prime Farmland

Prime Farmland if Drained

Farmland of Statewide Importance

Farmland class ratings are available in the official SSURGO soil survey data on Web Soil Survey. Farmland classes of New York soil map units are available on eFOTG in the report **Farmland Class Data for New York**, located in the Section II Soil Information folder.

The parameters for Prime Farmland are national. Soils must meet specific criteria with respect to a number of soil properties, including temperature, moisture regime, erodibility, pH, water table, permeability, rock fragment content, and others. Criteria are described in National Soil Survey Handbook section 622.3 / Farmland Classification.

Soils that are designated as Prime Farmland if Drained meet all the prime farmland criteria except for depth to seasonal high water table, and are suitable for drainage. In New York, somewhat poorly drained soils are designated as prime farmland if drained, if they meet all criteria for prime farmland other than depth to water table.

Criteria for farmland of statewide importance can be established within each state. In New York, Farmland of Statewide Importance soils are the soils that do not meet all the criteria for Prime Farmland or Prime Farmland if Drained, but are mineral soils in land capability classes 2e, 2s, 2w, 3e, 3s, 3w, or 4w.

In the SSURGO soil data, soils that do not meet the criteria for any of the above farmland classes are designated as **Not prime farmland**.

No soil map units in New York are designated as Unique farmland.

Information relating to farmland class definitions is available in the National Soil Survey Handbook.

622.3: Farmland Classification

622.20: exhibit – Prime and Unique Farmlands