

**Prime and Unique Farmlands:** Section II – Special Environmental Concerns, FOTG – Texas

Authority:

- Farmland Protection Policy Act and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 7 Section 658

Does the action convert farmland to a non-agricultural use?

- Does not include construction of on-farm structures necessary for farm operations.

Identifying prime and other farmland

- Using Web Soil Survey, identify area of interest (AOI) and select *Soil Data Explorer*.
  - Under *Suitabilities and Limitations for Use*,
    - Select *Land Classifications*,
      - Then select *Farmland Classification*, or
  - Under *Soil Reports*,
    - Select *Land Classifications*,
      - Then select *Prime and other Important Farmland*.

Prime farmland

- Land with best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion.
- Includes land with above characteristics used currently to produce livestock and timber.
- Does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage.

Unique farmland

- Land other than prime farmland used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, e.g., citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables.
- Has special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

Farmland, other than prime or unique farmland

- Land of state-wide or local importance for production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oilseed crops, as determined by the appropriate State or unit of local government agency or agencies, and Secretary of Agriculture determines should be considered same as prime or unique farmland for purposes of Farmland Protection Policy Act.