

Prime farmland is one of several kinds of important farmland defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It 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 qualities, 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. It 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.

A recent trend in land use in some parts of the survey area 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.

The map units in the survey area that are considered prime farmland are listed in the following table. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use. On some soils included in the list, 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. The extent of each listed map unit is shown in the "Acres and Proportionate Extent of Soils" table. The location is shown on the detailed soil maps. The soil qualities that affect use and management are described in other tables in this document."

Map symbol	Mapunit name	Farmland Classification
033YE	Yahola fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
077FU	Farnum loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
077GE	Gerlane fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
077MC	Minco silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
077MN	Minco silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
077MO	Minco silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
077SE	Shellabarger fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
095FA	Farnum sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
095SB	Shellabarger sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
095WA	Waldeck fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
097WA	Waldeck loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
151BC	Blanket silty clay loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
151CM	Clark clay loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
151CN	Clark fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
151CO	Clark-ost clay loams, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
151FA	Farnum clay loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
151OS	Ost clay loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
151SE	Shellabarger fine sandy loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ba	Blanket silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Bb	Blanket silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Bc	Blanket silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Ca	Canadian fine sandy loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Cc	Case-clark clay loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Cd	Clairemont silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ck	Clark clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Fa	Farnum fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Fm	Farnum loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Fr	Farnum loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Fu	Farnum clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Ga	Grant silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gb	Grant silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gc	Grant silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Kf	Kingfisher silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mn	Minco silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Na	Naron fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Nb	Naron fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Os	Ost clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ot	Ost clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pa	Pond creek silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pd	Pond creek silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ph	Dale silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Sb	Shellabarger sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SBB	Shellabarger fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sc	Shellabarger sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Wa	Waldeck sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ze	Zenda clay loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
151AB	Albion sandy loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
Ad	Albion-shellabarger sandy loams, 2 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated

