

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
007FU	Farnum clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
095SC	Shellabarger sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
095SD	Shellabarger sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
095ZA	Zenda clay loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
191EA	Blandco silty clay loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
191PD	Pond creek silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
191RA	Renfrow-grainola complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
191TA	Tabler silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
At	Attica fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Be	Bethany silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Bh	Bethany silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Cc	Case-clark complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ce	Corbin silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Cf	Corbin silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Fa	Farnum clay loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Fm	Farnum loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Fn	Farnum loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Fu	Farnum loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ge	Gerlane fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Gn	Grant silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gr	Grant silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Gs	Grant silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Kk	Kaski loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Km	Kirkland silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Kr	Kirkland-renfrow clay loams, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Kw	Kirkland-renfrow soils, 1 to 3 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Mc	Minco silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mn	Minco silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mo	Minco silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Na	Nashville silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ne	Nashville silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Nh	Nashville silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
No	Milan loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pc	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
Pe	Pond creek silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pg	Pond creek silt loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Ph	Dale silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Re	Ruella loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Rh	Ruella loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ru	Ruella loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sb	Shellabarger fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Se	Shellabarger fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sf	Shellabarger fine sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sg	Shellabarger fine sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Sh	Zellmont sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
SHH	Shellabarger sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sk	Zellmont sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ta	Tabler clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Za	Canadian fine sandy loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Zf	Zenda fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland

