

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
131CH	Chase silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
177MC	Martin silty clay loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Bd	Benfield silty clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ce	Chase silty clay loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Em	Elmont silty clay loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Eu	Eudora silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ex	Eudora-kimo complex, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Gm	Gymer silty clay loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Hn	Haynie very fine sandy loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Kf	Kennebec silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Km	Kimo silty clay, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Mo	Morrill loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mu	Muir silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Op	Ortello fine sandy loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pe	Pawnee clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Re	Reading silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Sg	Sharpsburg silt loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Tu	Tully silty clay loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Wk	Wymore silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Wm	Wymore silty clay loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ws	Wymore variant fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Wb	Wabash silty clay, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Zo	Zook silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained

