

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
045WS	Woodson silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
085KB	Kennebec soils, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
087RS	Rossville silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, very rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
139ED	Elmont loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
149KM	Kimo silty clay, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
197IB	Irwin silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
197IV	Ivan silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
197MR	Morrill loam, 4 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
197WY	Wymore silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
El	Elmont silt loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Em	Elmont silt loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Es	Eudora fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Et	Eudora silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ev	Eudora-kimo complex, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Ew	Eudora-kimo complex, overwash, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Gm	Gymer silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Kb	Kennebec silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Kc	Chase silt loam, occasionally flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Km	Kimo silty clay loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
La	Labette silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Lb	Labette silty clay loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ld	Ladysmith silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Lm	Ladysmith silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Ls	Ladysmith silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
Mb	Martin silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mc	Martin silty clay loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mm	Morrill clay loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
MOO	Morrill loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Mr	Muir silt loam, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
MRR	Morrill clay loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Pa	Pawnee clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
RD	Reading silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Re	Reading silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	All areas are prime farmland
Sg	Sharpsburg silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sk	Shelby clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sp	Morrill fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
Sr	Morrill fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	All areas are prime farmland
St	Sibleyville loam, 3 to 7 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
085ZA	Zook silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
087HC	Haig silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
087WC	Wabash silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, very rarely flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Wa	Wabash silty clay, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained
Wb	Wabash silty clay loam, occasionally flooded	Prime farmland if drained