

Prime and other Important Farmlands

This table lists the map units in the survey area that are considered important farmlands. Important farmlands consist of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use.

In an effort to identify the extent and location of important farmlands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with other interested Federal, State, and local government organizations, has inventoried land that can be used for the production of the Nation's food supply.

Prime farmland 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 quality, 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. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland 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.

For some of the soils identified in the table as prime farmland, 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.

A recent trend in land use in some areas 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.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables. It has the special combination of soil quality, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect needed for the soil to economically produce sustainable high yields of these crops when properly managed. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Nearness to markets is an additional consideration. Unique farmland is not based on national criteria. It commonly is in areas where there is a special microclimate, such as the wine country in California.

In some areas, land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland is considered to be *farmland of statewide importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The criteria for defining and delineating farmland of statewide importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable. Farmland of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law.

In some areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, land is considered to be *farmland of local importance* for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This farmland is identified by the appropriate local agencies. Farmland of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance.

Report—Prime and other Important Farmlands

Prime and other Important Farmlands—Mora County Area, New Mexico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Bd	Breece variant sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
Be	Brycan loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
Bf	Brycan loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DF	Dargol-Fuera association, hilly	Not prime farmland
DR	Dargol-Rocio-Vamer association, hilly	Not prime farmland
DV	Dargol-Rocio-Vamer association, very steep	Not prime farmland
EE	Etoe-Etown association, very steep	Not prime farmland
EV	Eutroboralfs-Rock outcrop-Vamer complex, extremely steep	Not prime farmland
FH	Firo-Hesperus association, hilly	Not prime farmland
FR	Firo-Rock outcrop complex, extremely steep	Not prime farmland
FU	Fuera-Dargol association, very steep	Not prime farmland
Hb	Hesperus sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
Hc	Hesperus sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
Ho	Holman complex, 3 to 5 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Mora County Area, New Mexico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
Kb	Kinesava loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated
KR	Krakon-Rock outcrop complex, hilly	Not prime farmland
MA	Maes-Etoe complex, hilly	Not prime farmland
MB	Maes-Etoe complex, extremely steep	Not prime farmland
Mh	Moreno loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
Mo	Moreno loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MR	Moreno-Bryan association, sloping	Not prime farmland
US	Ustifluvents, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland
VA	Vamer-Rock outcrop-Eutroboralfs complex, hilly	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San Miguel County Area, New Mexico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
AcG	Abreu-Cypher complex, 15 to 65 percent slopes	
CD	Carnero-Partri association, undulating	Farmland of statewide importance
CO2	Colmor-Onava complex, fan remnants - MLRA70A.1	Not prime farmland
HeC	Hesperus-Dula, frequently flooded-Pastorius complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes	
HpC	Hesperus-Pastorius-Chamita, frequently flooded complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes	
HU1	Haplustolls-Ustifluvents-Riverwash complex, floodplains - MLRA 70A.1	Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
KR	Kiln-Rock outcrop complex, hilly	Not prime farmland
LE	Laporte-Escabosa association, hilly	Not prime farmland
LF	Laporte-Rock outcrop complex, steep	Not prime farmland
LM1	Litle-Mion complex, breaks - MLRA 70A.1	Not prime farmland
MC	Manzano loam, gently sloping	Prime farmland if irrigated
MG	Moreno-Bryan association, sloping	Farmland of statewide importance
ML2	Mion-Litle complex, escarpments - MLRA 70A.1	Not prime farmland
On1	Onava loam, interfluvial summits - MLRA 70A.1	Not prime farmland
PC	Partri loam, undulating	Prime farmland if irrigated
Ph2	Philmont silt loam, plateau interfluvial, gently sloping - MLRA 70A.1	Not prime farmland
RG	Rocio-Dargol-Stout association, hilly	Not prime farmland
RH	Rock outcrop-Haploborolls complex, very steep	Not prime farmland
SL1	Sapello and La Brier soils, drainageways - MLRA 70A.1	Not prime farmland
SR	Stout-Rocio-Dargol association, very steep	Not prime farmland
TR	Tuloso-Rock outcrop-Sombordoro association, steep	Not prime farmland
TS	Tuloso-Sombordoro-Rock outcrop complex, moderately sloping	Not prime farmland
VG1	Vegocito and Gallinas soils, stream terraces - MLRA 70A.1	Farmland of local importance, if irrigated

Prime and other Important Farmlands--San Miguel County Area, New Mexico		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
VV1	Valmora-Vermejo-Philmont-Porvenir complex, playas - MLRA 70A.1	Not prime farmland

Prime and other Important Farmlands--Santa Fe National Forest Area, New Mexico, Parts of Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Miguel and Santa Fe Counties		
Map Symbol	Map Unit Name	Farmland Classification
213	Derecho family, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
228	Etown, moderately deep-Derecho families-Rock outcrop association, 15 to 120 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
236	Jaroso family, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
237	Jaroso family, 25 to 80 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
337	Fallriver family, dry, 40 to 80 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
353	Broadmoor family-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 120 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland
ABE	Abreu-Cypher association, 10 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AcG	Abreu-Cypher complex, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
ArF	Angostura-Gromes complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
AwG	Allens Park-Wahatoya, very stony-Littlepine complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DeG	Derecho-Rock outcrop complex, 30 to 80 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DtC	Dalmation-Chamita, frequently flooded complex, 0 to 10 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
DxF	Derecho-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HdE	Herm-Dulcepeak, stony complex, 3 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
HeC	Hesperus-Dula, frequently flooded-Pastorius complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
LbG	Lobat-Abreu gravelly loams, 15 to 60 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MeD	Maes-Etoe complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MhC	Moreno loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
MLC	Morenda-Fiesta-Dula complex, 0 to 35 percent slopes, flooded	Not prime farmland
MR	Moreno-Brycan association, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
MwD	Mirand-Elbuck-Laventana complex, 0 to 20 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RFD	Ribera-Sombordoro, very stony-Vibo association, 1 to 9 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
RGE	Rocio-Dargol-Stout association, 5 to 35 percent slopes, stony	Not prime farmland
RmE	Rocio-Kiln complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
SRF	Stout-Rocio-Dargol, stony association, 9 to 65 percent slopes	Not prime farmland
VRE	Vamer, stony-Rock outcrop-Haplustalfs complex, frigid, 8 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Mora County Area, New Mexico

Survey Area Data: Version 20, Sep 3, 2024

Soil Survey Area: San Miguel County Area, New Mexico

Survey Area Data: Version 18, Sep 3, 2024

Soil Survey Area: Santa Fe National Forest Area, New Mexico, Parts of Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Miguel and Santa Fe Counties

Survey Area Data: Version 11, Sep 3, 2024