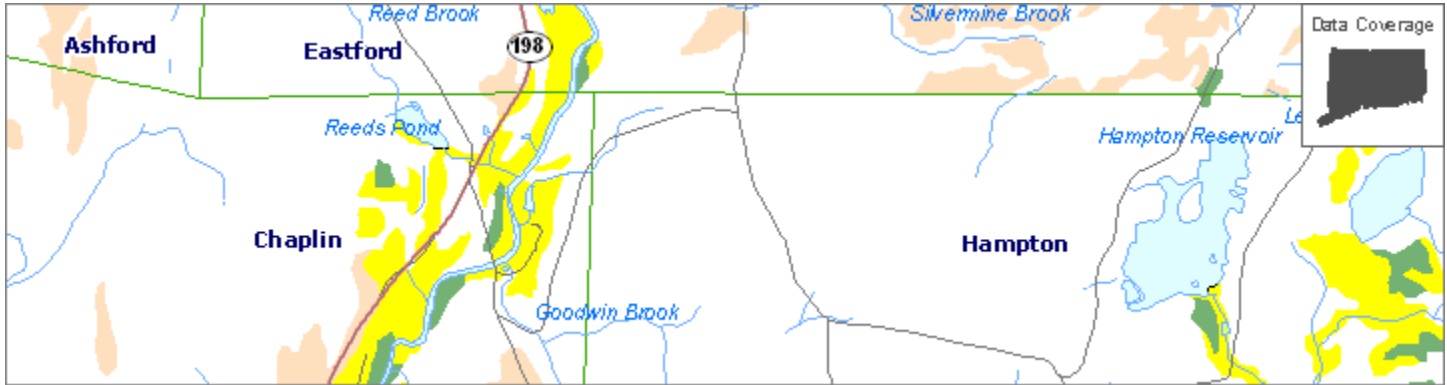


Farmland Soils



Description

Farmland Soils includes land that is defined as prime, unique, or farmlands of statewide or local importance based on soil type, in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, CFR title 7, part 657. It identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses.

Purpose

Farmland Soils can be used to identify the location and extent of those lands that have productive soils. Those lands may qualify to be protected in the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) which is reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to protect working agricultural land from conversion to nonagricultural uses and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Farmland Preservation Program’s goal of securing a food and fiber producing land resource base for the future of agriculture in Connecticut.

Legend Description

The legend describes three types of Prime Farmland Soils. All other soils, typically shown as a white background, are not Prime Farmland Soils.



Prime Farmland Soils

Soils that have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oil seed crops, and are also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, range-land, forestland, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields or crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming practices.

Statewide Important Farmland Soils

Soils that fail to meet one or more of the requirements of prime farmland, but are important for the production of food, feed, fiber, or forage crops. They include those soils that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

Locally Important Farmland Soils

Soils that are not prime or statewide importance but are used for the production of high value food, fiber or horticultural crops. This land may be important to the local economy due to its productivity or value. Includes locally important farmland soils for the towns of Ashford, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Lebanon, Milford, New Milford, and Norfolk.

Use Limitations

The Farmland Soils data is interpreted from soils data and has similar limitations. See the [Soils Resource Guide](#) for details. This information does not necessarily portray land that is used currently for farming; it identifies productive soils that are suitable to be farmed. The Farmland Soils data does not incorporate current land use changes which may affect the farmland soil designation. *This data set is not designed for use as a primary regulatory tool in permitting or siting decisions, but may be used as a reference source.* This is public information and may be interpreted by organizations, agencies, units of government, or others based on needs; however, they are responsible for the appropriate application. Federal, State, or local regulatory bodies are not to reassign to the Natural Resources Conservation Service any authority for the decisions that they make. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will not perform any evaluations of these maps for purposes related solely to State or local regulatory programs.

Related Information

[Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program](#) provides matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farm and ranch land protection programs to purchase conservation easements.

The [Connecticut Department of Agriculture](#) preserves farmland by acquiring development rights to agricultural properties through the Farmland Preservation Program.

[Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program](#) provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

[Connecticut Farmland Trust](#) is the only private statewide conservation organization dedicated solely to permanently protecting Connecticut's farmland.

Soil survey interpretations are predictions of soil characteristics for specified land management practices. Below are descriptions of soil survey interpretations available through CT ECO.

[Hydric Soils](#) - CT ECO Complete Resource Guide

Document last revised April 2011

[Inland Wetland Soils](#) - CT ECO Complete Resource Guide

[Soil Drainage Class](#) - CT ECO Complete Resource Guide

[Soil Flooding Class](#) - CT ECO Complete Resource Guide

[Soil Potential Ratings for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems](#) - CT ECO Complete Resource Guide

[Soil Parent Materials](#) - CT ECO Complete Resource Guide

Data Collection Date

The original data was collected from published surveys from 1962 to 1981, field mapping from 1985 through 2001, attribute documentation to 3/23/2007, and additional Locally Important Farmland designated as of July 2009.

Status

Additional Locally Important Farmland soils by geographic areas may be added on a frequent basis. Lists of the soil map units that qualify as Locally Important Farmland soils are available at <http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/soils.html>. Previously published county soil surveys (published between 1962 and 1981) are superseded by this official soil information. Previously published county soil surveys are for historical use only.

Map Scale

The source map scale is 1:12,000 (1 inch = 1,000 feet). This information is designed to be viewed and analyzed at this map scale. The minimum size delineation is 3 acres.

Contact

State Soil Scientist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 334 Merrow Rd., Suite A, Tolland, CT 08084. Phone: 860-871-4011 or visit the [Connecticut NRCS office website](#).

Additional Documentation

[Farmland Soils](#) – CT ECO Basic Data Guide

[Farmland Soils GIS Metadata](#) – Contains technical documentation describing the Farmland Soils data and the data sources, process steps, and standards used to collect, digitize, and store this information in a geographic information system (GIS).

[Soils](#) – CT ECO Complete Resource Guide

[Locally Important Farmland List](#) - List of towns with additional soils identified and approved by the town and the NRCS as Local Important Farmland.

Document last revised April 2011

Originators

[USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#)

GIS Data Download

Soils data downloadable from [DEEP GIS Data](#) originated from the [Soils Data Mart \(SDM\)](#) where additional soils data is available.

Connect GIS and AutoCAD software to this information online using the Soils [CT ECO Map Service](#).