

Appendix B. NRCS Farmland Coordination



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

South Dakota State Office

200 Fourth Street SW, Room 203
Huron, SD 57350

February 9, 2024

Mr. Kody Unstad
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
11422 Miracle Hills Drive, Suite 115
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

RE: Environmental Review for:
Union County_Northshore Drive Realignment_project

Dear Mr. Unstad:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) review of this project.

The project **does** impact prime farmland and land of statewide importance. Enclosed is a Web Soil Survey map delineating the FPPA farmland classifications of the proposed site. Also enclosed is a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (AD-1006) for this project. We have completed Parts II, IV, and V. Please complete Parts I, III, VI, and VII as per instructions on the back of the form and the attached document titled **Site Assessment Scoring for the Twelve Factors Used in FPPA**. If the TOTAL POINTS in Part VII is less than 160 points, the proposed activity will have no significant impact on the prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance in Union County, and no further alternatives need be considered.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would advise the applicant to consult with the local NRCS and Farm Service Agency offices regarding any United States Department of Agriculture easements or contracts in the project areas that may be affected. For any other easements outside of the NRCS, you should check with the local courthouse.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (605) 633-0359.

Sincerely,

RYAN FORBES
Acting State Resource Conservationist

Attachments

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

cc:

Nathan Jones, State Soil Scientist, NRCS, Huron SO

Jessica Michalski, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Huron SO

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request			
Name of Project		Federal Agency Involved			
Proposed Land Use		County and State			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:	
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %		
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site					
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)					
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)			
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160			
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100			
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160			
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260			
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
Reason For Selection:					
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:					Date:

(See Instructions on reverse side)

STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map, or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

(For Federal Agency)

Part I: When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

Part III: When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

Part VI: Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

Part VII: In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

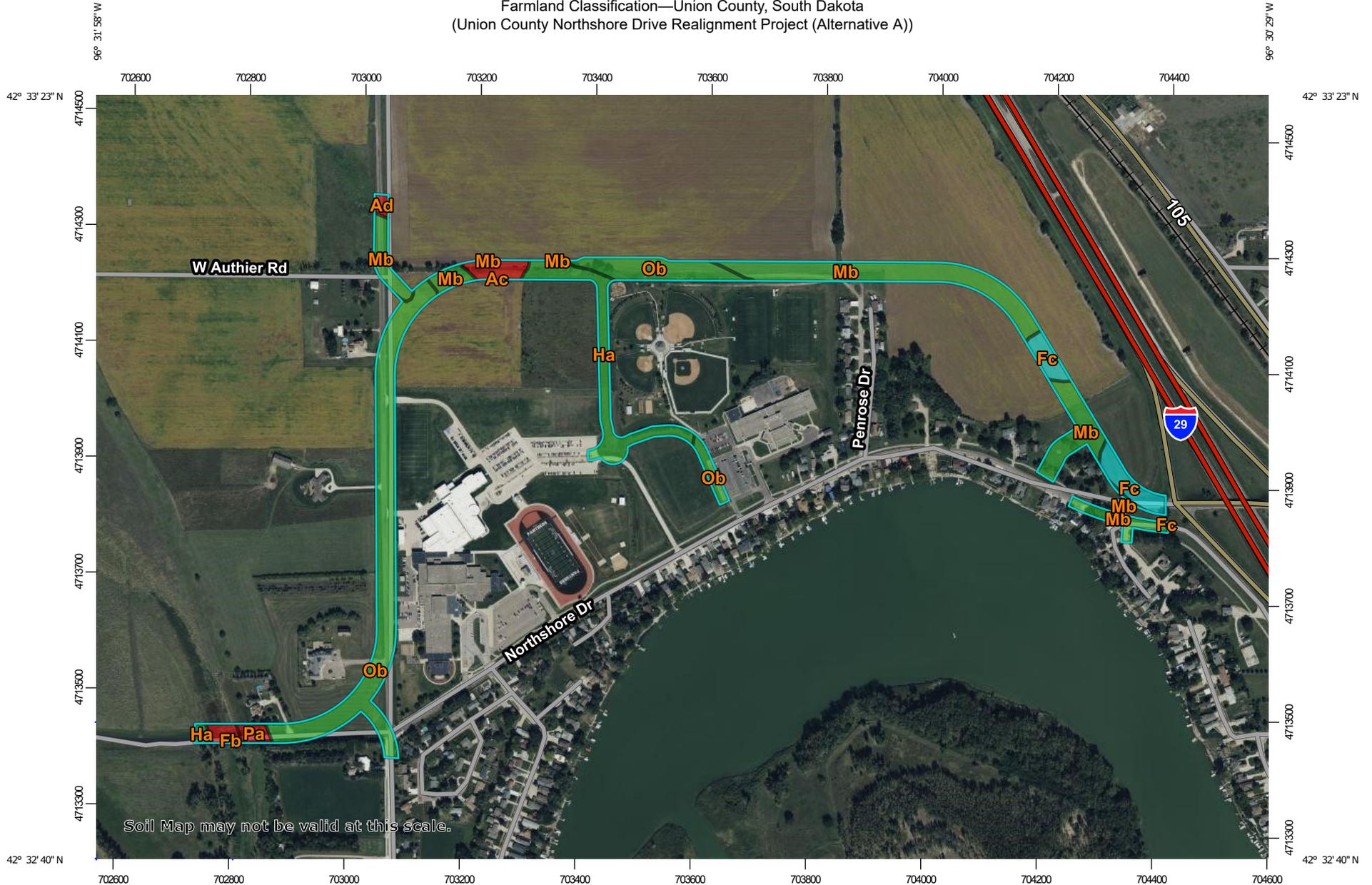
Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$$

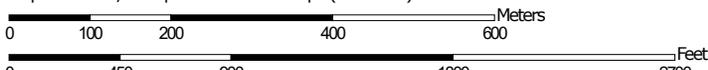
For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.

Farmland Classification—Union County, South Dakota
 (Union County Northshore Drive Realignment Project (Alternative A))



Map Scale: 1:9,290 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 14N WGS84



Farmland Classification—Union County, South Dakota
 (Union County Northshore Drive Realignment Project (Alternative A))

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

Soil Rating Polygons

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

-  Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated

-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60

-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed
-  Farmland of local importance
-  Farmland of local importance, if irrigated

-  Farmland of unique importance
-  Not rated or not available

Soil Rating Lines

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Farmland Classification—Union County, South Dakota
(Union County Northshore Drive Realignment Project (Alternative A))

	Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Farmland of unique importance		Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
	Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Soil Rating Points Not prime farmland		Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
	Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Prime farmland if drained		Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
	Farmland of statewide importance		Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough		Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance
	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60		Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed		Prime farmland if irrigated		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
	Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season				Farmland of local importance		Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated				Farmland of local importance, if irrigated		Prime farmland if irrigated and drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
							Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		

Farmland Classification—Union County, South Dakota
(Union County Northshore Drive Realignment Project (Alternative A))

<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough  Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed  Farmland of local importance  Farmland of local importance, if irrigated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of unique importance  Not rated or not available <p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Streams and Canals <p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Rails  Interstate Highways  US Routes  Major Roads  Local Roads <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Aerial Photography 	<p>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</p> <p>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</p> </div> <p>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</p> <p>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL: Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)</p> <p>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</p> <p>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.</p> <p>Soil Survey Area: Union County, South Dakota Survey Area Data: Version 27, Sep 13, 2023</p> <p>Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</p> <p>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Sep 19, 2022—Sep 20, 2022</p> <p>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</p>
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Farmland Classification

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Ac	Albaton silty clay	Not prime farmland	0.8	3.0%
Ad	Albaton silty clay, depressional	Not prime farmland	0.2	0.8%
Fb	Norway loamy sand	Not prime farmland	0.4	1.6%
Fc	Forney silty clay	Farmland of statewide importance	2.0	7.2%
Ha	Haynie silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	3.5	12.7%
Mb	Modale silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	9.2	33.2%
Ob	Onawa silty clay	All areas are prime farmland	11.1	40.0%
Pa	Percival silty clay	Not prime farmland	0.4	1.5%
Totals for Area of Interest			27.7	100.0%

Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Tie-break Rule: Lower

Farmland Classification—Union County, South Dakota
 (Union County Northshore Drive Realignment Project (Alternative B))



Map Scale: 1:9,860 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 14N WGS84



Farmland Classification—Union County, South Dakota
(Union County Northshore Drive Realignment Project (Alternative B))

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

Soil Rating Polygons

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-  Prime farmland if drained
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-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

-  Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated

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-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed
-  Farmland of local importance
-  Farmland of local importance, if irrigated

-  Farmland of unique importance
-  Not rated or not available

Soil Rating Lines

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	Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Farmland of unique importance		Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
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	Farmland of statewide importance		Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough		Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance
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	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated				Farmland of local importance		Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
					Farmland of local importance, if irrigated		Prime farmland if irrigated and drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
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<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</p> <p> Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p> Farmland of unique importance</p> <p> Not rated or not available</p>	<p>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.</p>
<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained</p>	<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p>Water Features</p> <p> Streams and Canals</p>	<p>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</p> <p>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</p>
<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</p>	<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p> Rails</p> <p> Interstate Highways</p> <p> US Routes</p> <p> Major Roads</p> <p> Local Roads</p>	
<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer</p>	<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed</p>	<p>Background</p> <p> Aerial Photography</p>	<p>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</p>
<p> Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</p>	<p> Farmland of local importance</p>		<p>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL: Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)</p>
	<p> Farmland of local importance, if irrigated</p>		<p>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</p>
			<p>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.</p>
			<p>Soil Survey Area: Union County, South Dakota Survey Area Data: Version 27, Sep 13, 2023</p>
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			<p>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Sep 19, 2022—Sep 20, 2022</p>
			<p>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</p>

Farmland Classification

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Ac	Albaton silty clay	Not prime farmland	0.0	0.0%
Ad	Albaton silty clay, depressional	Not prime farmland	0.1	0.4%
Fb	Norway loamy sand	Not prime farmland	0.4	1.4%
Fc	Forney silty clay	Farmland of statewide importance	8.1	26.1%
Ha	Haynie silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	2.6	8.4%
Mb	Modale silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	10.5	33.7%
Ob	Onawa silty clay	All areas are prime farmland	8.9	28.5%
Pa	Percival silty clay	Not prime farmland	0.4	1.4%
Totals for Area of Interest			31.1	100.0%

Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Tie-break Rule: Lower