

Farmland of Local Importance
for
Town of Petersham, Massachusetts

In the Town of Petersham, Massachusetts, there is concern for certain additional farmlands for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops, not identified as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance. In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations title 7 part 657, lands in the Town of Petersham represented by the following soil survey map units as qualified are identified by the local agency concerned and approved by the signatories as farmland of local importance.

Farmland of local importance qualifying conditions take into consideration the highly erodible land and wetland compliance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 and associated USDA program eligibility however, farmland of local importance designations do not guarantee compliance with the Act.

Inventories of important farmland soil survey map units do not constitute a designation of any land area to a specific land use.

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Qualifier
31A	Walpole sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Where historically ¹ drained, or growing season saturation in years of normal precipitation does not preclude crop production ² viability.
901E	Berkshire-Marlow association, 15 to 45 percent slopes, extremely stony	Where the distribution of surface stones and boulders allows hay and/or perennial fruit production viability and/or improved pasture.
902E	Charlton-Paxton association, 15 to 45 percent slopes, extremely stony	Where areas that contain contiguous slopes of less than 15 percent allow for row crop production viability and/or where suited for hay and/or perennial fruit production, and/or improved pasture.
905C	Peru-Marlow association, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	Where the distribution of surface stones and boulders allows crop production viability.
908C	Becket-Skerry association, 0 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	Where the distribution of surface stones and boulders allows crop production viability.
910C	Woodbridge-Paxton association, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	Where the distribution of surface stones and boulders allows crop production viability.

¹ "Historically" defined as prior to December 23, 1985, in accordance with the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

² Crop production is the process of managing land to grow and harvest food, feed, fiber, forage, and/or oilseed crops including fertilizing, pest control, irrigation, cultivating, and preparation for planting as applicable to the crop, and harvesting to maintain viable yields without causing excessive erosion. In addition to row crops, crop production includes hay and other feed crops, perennial fruit and nut crops, and improved pasture. Improved pasture is defined as grazing lands that are not in crop rotation and are planted primarily to forage species that receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, and weed control.

