Good quality soil is essential for crops to produce. Which makes soil quality a factor that could result in land conversion. The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a survey done to classify soil into classes based on its usefulness. Those classes are:

* Class 1 soils have few limitations that restrict their use.
* Class 2 soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.
* Class 3 soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require special conservation practices, or both.
* Class 4 soils have very severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both.
* Class 5 soils are subject to little or no erosion but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
* Class 6 soils have severe limitations that make them generally suitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
* Class 7 soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to grazing, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
* Class 8 soils and miscellaneous areas have limitations that preclude commercial plant production and that restrict their use to recreational purposes, wildlife habitat, watershed, or esthetic purposes.

Most of Goochland County’s soil is in Class 2 or 3. This means that most of the land in Goochland is farmable, but it has limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both. On the other end of the spectrum, Goochland has zero acres of land in Class 8. Goochland also has a low number of acres with no data with 5,237 acres. Despite the limitations, it still is possible to farm and for Goochland to be mostly agricultural.

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Powhatan County soil quality is mostly in Class 2. As mentioned above, Class 2 has moderate limitations so crops can be grown here. Powhatan also has land that is in Class 1. This is definitely the best land in the county, but it is only 1686 acres. Class 4 is also high in Powhatan. Class 4 is the lowest crops that can probably can be farmed. This class has very severe limitations, which would require very careful management to farm crops on this land. The graph on the right can be zoomed in on Class 8. This class is the worse soil class. Powhatan has 29 acres in the class. Overall, Powhatan has good farm land and can remain agricultural.