Blackford County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
3. Geographic and Historical Notes

Blackford County is located in east central Indiana. It is bordered by Jay County to the east, Wells County to the north, Grant County to the west, and Wells County to the north. State Highways 3 and 26 intersect in Blackford County. The landscape features oak, elm, ash, cottonwood, birch, beech, maple and hickory. This county is part of the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area. The landscape is nearly flat across almost all of the county, but slopes slightly along areas of the Big Lick Creek (south) and the Salamonie River (northeast).

This county is in Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily January temperatures are \(16^\circ/36^\circ\) in January and \(60^\circ/87^\circ\) in July. Annual precipitation is 35-38 inches and snowfall 30-40 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season is around October 5-10 (except in the southwest corner, October 10-15) and the last freeze is around May 1-5 (except northeast corner, May 5-10). The growing season lasts about 153-168 days.

Main agricultural activities are diversified and crops include oats and winter wheat. Main natural resources include construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, petroleum, and commercial forestland.

Cities include Hartford City, the county seat, Dunkirk (which extends into Jay county), and Montpelier. Towns include Shamrock Lakes. Townships include Harrison, Jackson, Licking, and Washington.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Blackford County is not a tobacco-producing county, according to the Strategic Development Group’s “Alternative Agricultural Strategy” (Bloomington, March 15, 2001) report, which is part of Governor Joseph E. Kernan’s “Recipient Final Reports for Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture Grant Programs” (http://www.in.gov/oca/grants/valueadd/VAFinalReports.html):