Clark County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Clark County is located in southeastern Indiana on the Kentucky border. It is bordered by Jefferson County to the northeast, the Ohio River and the state of Kentucky to the east, the Ohio River and Floyd County to the south, Washington County to the west and Scott County to the north/northeast. U.S. Highway 31, Interstate Highway 65, and State Highway 62 cross the county. Elevation is 500-900 feet. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. With some exceptions, most of the county features moderate to steeply sloping terrain. In the west steep slopes are common. This county is part of three resource areas: the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain land resource area (east and central), the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area (west central) and the Highland Rim and Pennroyal land resource area (extreme west).

Clark County is in Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 19°/42° in January and 61°/89° in July. Annual precipitation is 41-43 and snowfall 8-15 inches.

Depending on the section of the county, the first freeze of the season will likely occur from October 15-20 (northwest), 20-26 (central), to 25-30 (south). The last freeze will typically occur around April 15-20, except in the southwest corner, where it may be earlier, April 10-15. The growing season lasts about 173-203 days.

About two-fifths of the land is farmland, of which about half is used for crops for harvest. A tiny fraction of this land is irrigated. Main crops include corn for grain, soybeans and hay. Nuts and strawberries are grown, as are a variety of vegetables (cucumbers, cabbage, snap beans, sweet peppers, squash and pumpkins). Livestock include cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. Popcorn is a special crop, as is tobacco. Clark County is one of the highest producers of tobacco in Indiana. Main natural resources include cement, clay, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and commercial forestland.

Cities include the Jeffersonville, the county seat, and Charlestown. Towns include Clarksville, New Providence, Sellersburg, and Utica. Townships include Bethlehem, Carr, Charlestown, Jeffersonville, Monroe, Oregon, Owen, Silver Creek, Union Utica, Washington and Wood.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Clark County Tobacco Production & Revenue:

Source: 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):

According to the most recent data available, Clark County ranked 5th in the State for the percent of all farms that produce tobacco (20.1%). A total of 612 acres in Clark County are devoted to tobacco production on 130 farms. For those 130 farms, tobacco income per farm ($18,304) expressed as a percentage of the Average Household Income for the county ($36,729) was 49.8% in 1997.

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
- Rank for tobacco production: 4th for acres
- Acres in tobacco production: 612
- Number of farms producing tobacco: 130
- As a Percent of all farms: 20.1%
- Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 5th
- Tobacco income per farm producing: $18,304
- Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 49.8%

[See appendices for more information.]

Frontiersman, Revolutionary War fighter and controversial figure George Rogers Clark (1752-1818) surveyed land in Kentucky and southeastern Indiana. Indiana’s second town, Clarksville, was founded in 1784 on land that had been granted to Clark and his militia for their service. Clarksville was, however, the 1st town in the Old Northwest Territory.