Clay 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

Clay County is located in west central Indiana. It is bordered to the north by Parke County, to the northeast by Putnam, to the east by Owen, to the south by Greene, to the southwest by Sullivan, and to the west by Vigo County. U.S. Highway 40, Interstate Highway 70, and State Highway 59 cross through Clay County. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. This county is part of the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain land resource area. The landscape is mostly either nearly flat or is moderately steep terrain, except around Connelly Creek (south).

Clay county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily January temperatures are $16^\circ/37^\circ$ in January and $63^\circ/88^\circ$ in July. Annual precipitation is 41-43 and snowfall 15-30 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season is around October 15-20 and the last freeze is around April 20-25 (in the western half of the county) and April 25-30 (in the eastern half). The growing season lasts about 173-183 days.

Main agricultural activities are corn for grain and soybeans. About seven-tenths of the state is farmland, of which four-fifths is in harvested crops. One additional crop is winter wheat. Livestock include hogs/pigs, cattle/calves, and milk cows. Main natural resources include coal, clay, petroleum, and commercial forestland.

Communities include the city of Brazil, the county seat. Towns include Carbon, Center Point, Clay City, Harmony, Knightsville, and Staunton. Townships include Brazil, Cass, Dick Johnson, Harrison, Jackson, Lewis, Perry, Posey, Sugar Ridge, Van Buren and Washington.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Clay 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):