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

Daviess County is located in southwestern Indiana. It is bordered by Greene County to the north, Martin to the east, Dubois to the south/southeast, Pike to the south/southwest, and Knox to the west. U.S. Highways 50 and 150 and State Highway 57 cross the county. Elevation is 500-600 feet. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. A variety of land surfaces are found, from nearly level in the west and central parts, to slight to moderately steep slopes in the east and south, to very steep slopes in the northeastern and southeastern corners of the county. Parts of this county pertain to three different land resource areas: the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys (southeast), the Southern Illinois and Thin Loess and Till Plain (east) and Central Mississippi Valley Wooded Slopes (west).

Davies county is in the Central Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 31°/39° in January and 67°/88° in July. Annual precipitation is 41-42 and snowfall 13-16 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season is around October 15-20 (southwestern third, October 20-25). The last freeze varies from around April 10-15 (west), to 15-20 (central), to 25-30 (northeast). The growing season lasts about 173-198 days.

Agriculture is diversified. About a four-fifths of the land is farmland and three-quarters of that is in commercial crops. Almost all the crops are without irrigation. Main crops include corn for grain, soybeans, hay, and winter wheat, but most (about three-quarters) of farm income comes from livestock. Livestock include turkeys, cattle/calves, milk cows, and hens/pullets. Main natural resources include coal, construction sand and gravel, petroleum, and forestland.

Communities include the city of Washington, which is the county seat. Towns include Alfordsville, Cannelburg, Elnora, Montgomery, Odon, and Plainville. Townships include Barr, Bogard, Elmore, Harrison, Madison, Reeve, Steele, Van Buren Veale, and Washington.

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