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

Delaware County is located in East Central Indiana. It is bordered by Blackford and Grant Counties to the north, Madison to the west, Henry to the south, Randolph to the east, and Jay to the northeast. U.S. Highway 35, Interstate Highway 69 and State Highway 3 cross the county. Elevation is 850 to 1,050 feet. The landscape features beech, birch, hickory, maple and oak trees. The topography of the county is nearly level in most areas. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Delaware county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17°/36° in January and 61°/88° in July. Annual precipitation is 37and snowfall 25-35 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 5-10 in the east and October 10-15 in the west. The last freeze varies from May 1-5 in most of the county, but April 25-30 in the southwestern corner. The growing season lasts about 158-173 days.

Agriculture activity is diversified, mainly in corn for grain, soybeans and winter wheat. About two-thirds of the land is farmland and about four-fifths of that is in commercial crops. A special crop is popcorn. Apples are also important. Livestock includes cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. Main natural resources include construction sand, gravel, crushed stone, limestone, petroleum, and commercial forestland. Water resources include the Prairie Creek Reservoir, the White River, and the Mississinewa River.

Communities include the city of Muncie (the county seat) and the towns of Albany (which extends into Randolph County), Eaton, Gaston, Selma, and Yorktown.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Famous sons and daughters of Delaware County include Emily Kimbrough of Muncie, co-author of *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay* (1942). In addition, she was a fashion editor of *Ladies’ Home Journal* and authored 14 books. She died in 1989 in New York City.


Delaware 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)