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

Elkhart County is located in Northern Indiana on border with the State of Michigan. It is bordered by the State of Michigan to the north, La Grange County to the east, Noble to the southeast, Kosciusko to the south, Marshall to the southwest, and St. Joseph to the west. U.S. Highways 33 and 20, Interstate Highways 80 and 90 cross the county. Elevation is 750-900 feet. The landscape features beech, birch, maple, hickory, and oak trees. The topography is nearly level except for slightly sloping terrain along the Elkhart River and in areas in the northeast, southeast and west-central zones. Most of the county pertains to the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana Drift Plain land resource area, except the southwestern corner which is part of the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Elkhart County is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are $17\degree/32\degree$ in January and $61\degree/84\degree$ in July. Annual precipitation is approximately 38 and snowfall 70 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 5-10. The last freeze varies from around May 5-10. The growing season lasts about 148-158 days.

Agriculture is diversified, but livestock is the largest source of farm income. About three-fifths of the land is farmland, of which three-fourths is commercial crops. Main crops are hay, oats, corn for grain, soybeans, and winter wheat. Fruits and vegetables include strawberries, cantaloupes, pumpkins and sweet corn. Popcorn is a special crop. Livestock includes hens/pullets, cattle/calves, milk cows, hogs/pigs, and sheep/lambs. Main natural resources include construction sand, gravel, and forestland. Lakes include Boot, Dock, East, Heaton, Hunter, Indian, Round, Simonton, Wolf and Yellow Creek Lakes and Goshen Pond. Major rivers include the St. Joseph, Little Elkhart, and Elkhart Rivers.

Communities include the cities of Goshen (the county seat), Elkhart, and Nappanee (which extends into Kosciusko County). Towns include Bristol, Middlebury, Millersburg, and Wakarusa. Larger townships include Elkhart, Concord, Osolo, Baugo, Cleveland and Washington.
Elkhart 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):