Greene County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Greene County is located in West Central Indiana. It is bordered by the following counties: Delaware to the south/southeast, Madison to the south, Tipton to the southwest, Howard to the west, Miami to the northwest, Wabash and Huntington to the north. U.S. Highway 231 and State Highways 54 and 67 cross the county. Elevation is 500-800 feet. The terrain in the far east is very steep and in the far western parts of the county is moderately to steeply sloping. The central area is nearly level. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. The county pertains to the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area (east), the Central Mississippi Valley Wooded Slopes (south and center), and the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain (elsewhere).

Greene county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 20°/38° in January and 64°/87° in July. Annual precipitation is about 41 and snowfall about 15 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 15-20. The last freeze varies from April 20-25, except in the northern central area where it is later. April 25-30. The growing season lasts about 168-183 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified with corn for grain, soybeans, hay and cattle/calves. A little over half of the land is in farms and a little over half of that land is in cash crops. An additional crop is winter wheat. Apples are a primary fruit. Popcorn and tobacco are special crops. Livestock includes cattle/calves, hogs/pigs, and turkeys. Main natural resources include coal, construction sand and gravel, petroleum, and forestland. Water resources include the White River and numerous lakes, including Moses Lake, Lenape Lake, Long Pit Lake, Peabody Lake, Thousand Island Lake, and Wampler Lake.

Communities include the cities of Jasonville and Linton, and the towns of Bloomfield (the county seat), Lyons, Newberry, Switz City, and Worthington.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
3. Location and Historical Notes

Greene 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, Greene County has 138 acres devoted to tobacco production on 24 farms (or 2.7% of the total of 878 farms in the county). Greene ranked 13th for number of acres and 13th for the percentage of farms (2.7%) producing tobacco. Tobacco income, for each farm producing tobacco ($22,605), represented 70% of the figure for average household income ($32,293) in the county that year (1997).

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 13th
Acres in tobacco production: 138
Number of farms producing tobacco: 24
As a Percent of all farms: 2.7%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 17th
Tobacco income per farm producing: $22,605
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 70%

[See appendices for more information.]

Famous Sons and Daughters:

A famous son of Greene County is Phil Harris (1904-1995), known as Jack Benny’s sidekick, husband of actress Alice Faye, and the voice of the bear “Baloo” in The Jungle Story (1967). He was also a popular musician, bandleader, for over half a century. Throughout his entire life he maintained his ties to Linton, returning for events like golf tournaments and variety shows and raising large sums of money for college scholarships. (Nelson Price, Indiana Legends, Carmel: Guild Press of Indiana, Inc., 1997, p. 129).