Harrison 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

Harrison County is located in southeastern Indiana, bordering the Ohio River and Kentucky to the south. Its other three borders touch the following counties: Floyd to the east, Washington to the north, and Crawford to the west. State Highways 337 and 135, and Interstate Highway 64 cross the county. Elevation is 700-900 feet. The terrain is mostly moderately to steeply sloping except very steep along the the northwest and southeast borders and nearly level adjacent to the Big Indian Creek. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. Central Harrison County pertains to the Highland Rim and Pennyroyal land resource area. The remainder of the county (western and southeastern areas) pertain to the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area.

Harrison county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 12°/42° in January and 65°/90° in July. Annual precipitation is about 45 and snowfall about 13 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season varies from October 15-20 (north), 20-25 (central), to 25-30 (south). The last freeze is around April 10-15, except April 15-20 in the extreme northwest. The growing season lasts about 178-203 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified. About half of the land is in farms and less than half of that land is in cash crops. Harrison County is one of Indiana principle producers of tobacco. Four-fifths of farm income comes from livestock and related products. Main crops are corn for grain, soybeans, winter wheat and hay, and hogs/pigs. A main vegetables are Irish potatoes and sweet corn. Livestock include hens/pullets, cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. In addition to its forestland, Harrison County’s natural resources include construction sand, gravel, petroleum, crushed stone, and industrial sand and gravel. Water resources include the Corydon Water Works Reservoir No. 1, Buffalo Trace Lake, Kenno Valley Lake, Lanesville Reservoir, Overflow Pond and the Ohio and the Blue Rivers.

Communities include the towns of Corydon (the county seat), Crandall, Elizabeth, Laconia, Lanesville, Mauckport, Milltown (which extends into Crawford County), New Amsterdam, New Middletown, and Palmyra.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Harrison 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, Harrison County is 3rd in the State in both acres (655) devoted to tobacco production and the number of farms (201) producing tobacco. Harrison ranked 6th in the percentage of farms (18.1%) producing tobacco. Tobacco income, for each farm producing tobacco ($11,830), represented 31% of the figure for average household income ($38,204) in the county that year (1997).

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
- Rank for acres in tobacco production: 3rd
- Acres in tobacco production: 655
- Number of farms producing tobacco: 201
- As a Percent of all farms: 18.1%
- Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 6th
- Tobacco income per farm producing: $11,830
- Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 31%

[See appendices for more information.]