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

Jasper County is located in northwestern Indiana. It is bordered by the following counties: Newton to the west, Lake to the northwest, Porter to the north, LaPorte and Starke to the northeast, Pulaski to the east. U.S. Highways 231 and 24 and Interstate Highway 65 cross the county. Elevation is 650-750 feet. The terrain is nearly level. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. The county pertains to the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana Drift Plain land resource area (north) and the Northern Illinois and Indiana Heavy Till Plain (south).

Jasper county is in the Central Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 11º/32º in January and 60º/86º in July. Annual precipitation is about 36 and snowfall about 28 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 5-10, except October 10-15 (southeast corner). The last freeze varies from May 5-10 (north) to May 5-10 (south). The growing season lasts about 148-168 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified with livestock being very important. About four-fifths of the land is in farms and about four-fifths of that land is in cash crops. Main crops are corn for grain and soybeans. Sweet corn is an important vegetable. Popcorn is a special crop. Livestock includes cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Main natural resources include construction sand and gravel, crushed stone and forestland. Water resources include the large Ringneck Lake and the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers.

Communities include the city of Rensselaer (the county seat) and the towns of De Motte, Remington, and Wheatfield.

Sources: Map from P’Census for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Jasper 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):