The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Jefferson County is located in southeastern Indiana on the Kentucky and the Ohio River on its southeastern border. It is also bordered by the following counties: Switzerland to the east, Ripley to the north, Jennings to the northwest, Scott to the southwest, Clark to the south. U.S. Highway 421 and State Highways 7 and 256 cross the county. Elevation is 450-800 feet. The terrain is very steep in the eastern portion of the county and becomes a mix of slightly sloping and moderate to steep slopes elsewhere. The landscape features birch, beech, oak, maple, and hickory trees. The county pertains mainly to the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain, except some areas in the east that pertain to the Kentucky Bluegrass land resource area.

Jefferson county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 19°/42° in January and 61°/89° in July. Annual precipitation is about 43 and snowfall about 13 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 20-25, except in the far west (October 10-15) and the far south (October 25-30). The last freeze varies from April 20-25, except in the far south, April 15-20. The growing season lasts about 173-203 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified. About half of the land is farmland and about half of that land is in cash crops. Main crops are corn for grain, soybeans, hay, and winter wheat. Apples and grapes are important fruits. Tobacco and popcorn are special crops. Livestock includes cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. Besides forestland, natural resources include limestone, dolomite, sand, gravel, shale oil, and oil and gas. Water resources include the Ohio River, Hereford Lake, Jefferson Lake, and Stucker Fork Lake No. 3.

Communities include the city of Madison (the county seat) and the towns of Brooksburg, Dupont, and Hanover.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Jefferson 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 above-named source, Jefferson County is 1st in the State in both acres (2,071) devoted to tobacco production and the number of farms (433) producing tobacco. Jefferson ranked 3rd in the percentage of farms (54.4%) producing tobacco. Jefferson ranked 6th for the tobacco income as a percent of average household income per tobacco-producing farm; average tobacco income for each farm producing tobacco ($17,636), represented 52.4% of the figure for average household income ($33,630) in the county that year (1997).

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 1st
Acres in tobacco production: 2,071
Number of farms producing tobacco: 433
As a Percent of all farms: 54.4%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 3rd
Average tobacco income per farm producing: $17,636
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 52.4%

[See appendices for more information.]