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

Jennings County is located in southeastern Indiana. It is also bordered by the following counties: Ripley to the east, Jefferson to the south/southeast, Scott to the south, Jackson to the west, Bartholomew to the northwest, and Decatur to the north. U.S. Highway 50 and State Highways 7 and 3 cross the county. Elevation is 600-850 feet. The terrain is varied with slightly sloping, moderate to steeply sloping, and nearly level land near creeks. The landscape features birch, beech, oak, maple, and hickory trees. The county pertains mainly to the Southern Illinois and Indiana Loess and Till Plain land resource area, except in the northwest corner, which is in the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Jennings county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 21°/39° in January and 64°/87° in July. Annual precipitation is about 44 and snowfall about 15 inches. Dividing the county in halves, the first freeze of the season typically occurs October 15-20 in the west and October 20-25 in the east. The last freeze varies from April 25-30, except in the far southwest (April 20-25). The growing season lasts about 168-183 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified and mainly in livestock and corn for grain. About half of the land is farmland and over half of that land is in cash crops. Additional main crops are soybeans, hay, and winter wheat. Sweet corn is an important vegetable crop. Tobacco is a special crop. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Besides forestland, other natural resources include crushed stone and petroleum. Water resources include Broomsage Ranch Lake, Brush Creek Lake, Country Squire Lake, Crosley Lake, and Wilson Smart Lake; and the East Fork of the Muscatatuck River.

Communities include the city of North Vernon and the town of Vernon (the county seat).

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

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**Jennings 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](http://www.in.gov/oca/grants/valueadd/VAFinalReports.html)):

According to the above-named source, Jennings County is 15th in the State for acres (117) devoted to tobacco production and 12th for the number of farms (48) producing tobacco. Jennings ranked 13th in the percentage of farms (7.9%) producing tobacco. Jennings ranked 10th for tobacco income as a percent of the average household income; average tobacco income for each farm producing tobacco ($12,059), represented 40% of the figure for average household income ($32,121) in the county that year (1997).

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
- Rank for acres in tobacco production: 15th
- Acres in tobacco production: 117
- Number of farms producing tobacco: 48
- As a Percent of all farms: 7.9%
- Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 13th
- Tobacco income per farm producing: $12,059
- Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 40%

[See appendices for more information.]

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**Famous Daughters and Sons of Jennings County:**

A famous daughter of Jennings County is Jessamyn West, author of novels like *The Friendly Persuasion* (1945) and *The Massacre at Fall Creek* (1975), was born in rural Jennings County and always considered herself a Hoosier as well as English. Her family moved to England before she turned seven.