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

Johnson County is located in southeastern Indiana. It is also bordered by the following counties: Shelby to the east, Bartholomew to the south/southeast, Brown to the south/southwest, Morgan to the west, and Marion to the north. U.S. Highway 50 and State Highways 7 and 3 cross the county. Elevation is 700-900 feet. The terrain is varied with steeply sloping (southwestern), slightly sloping (northwest and central), and nearly level land in the northeast and east central areas. The landscape features beech, oak, ash, 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.

Johnson county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17°/36° in January and 63°/87° in July. Annual precipitation is about 40 and snowfall about 18 inches. The first freeze of the season typically occurs October 15-20. The last freeze varies from April 25-30. The growing season lasts about 168-178 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified and mainly in livestock, soybeans, and corn for grain. About two-thirds of the land is farmland and about four-fifths 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 construction sand and gravel and forestland. Water resources include Earlham Lake, East Lake, Lamb Lake, Pisgah Lake; and the West Fork White River and the Big Blue River.

Communities include the cities of Franklin (the county seat) and Greenwood; and the towns of Bargersville, Edinburgh (which extends into Bartholomew County), New Whiteland, Princes Lakes, Trafalgar, and Whiteland.

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

Famous sons and daughters of Johnson County include Steve Alford, born in Franklin in 1965. He moved to Monroe City, Martinsville, and New Castle. He became one of Indiana’s most beloved basketball players. He went on to play in the NBA and to coach.

A second son of Johnson County is Paul V. McNutt of Franklin. Born in 1891, he graduated from Harvard Law School and became the youngest deal of the School of Law at I.U. He became Governor of Indiana in 1932 and later worked as a commissioner and eventually ambassador to the Philippines and for the Federal Security Administration.


Johnson 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):