The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Knox County is located in southwestern Indiana to the south of Terre Haute and on the border with Illinois. It is also bordered by the following counties: Sullivan to the north, Greene to the north/northeast, Daviess to the east, Pike to the south/southeast, and Gibson to the south. U.S. Highways 41, 50, and 150. Elevation is 400-550 feet. Although the land in the southwest and northeast, moderate to steeply sloping in the central region, and slightly sloping in the in the east central part. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. The county pertains mainly to the Central Mississippi Valley Wooded Slopes land resource area, except for one region (north central) which is part of the Southern Illinois and Indiana Loess and Till Plain land resource area.

Knox county is in the Central Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are about 40° and 39° in January and 69°/88° in July. Annual precipitation is about 40 and snowfall about 13 inches. The first freeze of the season typically occurs October 15-20 in the far northeast and October 20-25 elsewhere. The last freeze is earlier (April 10-15) in the central and southern areas and later (April 15-20) in the north, except even later (April 20-25) in the extreme northeast. The growing season lasts about 173-198 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified and mainly in hay, corn for grain, soybeans and winter wheat. Over nine-tenths of the land is in farmland and over four-fifths of that is in cash crops. Apples and strawberries are important fruits. Important vegetables include cantaloupes, snap beans, sweet corn, sweet peppers, tomatoes and watermelons. Popcorn is a special crop. Livestock include cattle/calves, hogs/pigs, and turkeys. Besides forestland, other natural resources include coal, construction sand and gravel and petroleum. Water resources include Brodie's Lake, Claypool Pond, Grays Pond, Long Ponds, Maria Pond, Mirror Lake, Halfmoon Pond, Sandborn Old Bed Lake, Thompson Bed Lake, Wabash Pond, White Oak Lake, White Oak Lake No. 2; the Wabash River, White River, and River Deshee.

Communities include the cities of Vincennes (the county seat) and Bicknell; and the towns of Bruceville, Decker, Edwardsport, Monroe City, Oaktown, Sandborn, and Wheatland.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Famous sons and daughters of Knox County include Vincennes native Richard Bernard Skelton, the comedian known as “Red Skelton” for his red hair. Born in 1911, the son of Joseph Skelton, a circus clown, who died before Richard was born, began performing before age 10. He appeared in medicine shows, on showboats, in burlesque, and as a circus clown. He rose to fame on the vaudeville circuit in the 1930s and later on radio, TV, and in movies. His TV show “The Red Skelton Show” ran for 20 years, 1951-71. He died in 1997.


Knox 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):