Kosciusko County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Kosciusko County is located in northern Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Elkhart to the north, Noble to the east/northeast, Whitley to the east/southeast, Wabash to the south, Fulton to the southwest, and Marshall to the west. U.S. Highway 30 and State Highways 15 and 25 cross the county. Elevation is 750-950 feet. The terrain is generally slightly sloping in the south and along the Tippicanoe River and nearly flat to the north. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. All except for the northeastern corner lies in the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area. That corner is in the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana Drift Plain land resource area.

Kosciusko county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 15°/33° in January and 60°/87° in July. Annual precipitation is about 37 and snowfall about 35 inches. The first freeze of the season typically occurs first in the northwest (October 5-10) and a little later elsewhere (October 10-15). The last freeze occurs first (May 1-5) in the southern two-thirds of the county and later (May 5-10) to the north. The growing season lasts about 158-168 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified and mainly in hay, corn for grain, soybeans and winter wheat. About three-fourths of the land is in farmland and about three-fourths of that is in cash crops. Apples and strawberries are important fruits. Important vegetables include sweet corn. Popcorn and mint are special crops. Livestock include cattle/calves, milk cows, hogs/pigs, and sheep/lambs. Besides forestland, other natural resources include construction sand and gravel. The county has abundant water resources including the following lakes: Beaver Dam, Big Barbee, Boner, Calwell, Carr, Center, Big Chapman, Crystal, Dewart, Diamond, Little Barbee, Hill, Hoffman, Irish, James, Kuhn, Little Chapman, Loon, Oswego, Pike, Riding, Robinson, Rock, Sawmill, Sechrist, Shock, Shoe, Silver, Spear, Syracuse, Backwaters, Tippecanoe, Wabee, Wawasee, Sebster, Sinona, and Yellow Creek; and the Tippecanoe River.

Communities include the cities of Warsaw (the county seat) and Nappanee (which extends into Elkhart County); and the towns of Burket, Claypool, Etna Green Leesburg, Mentone, Milford, North Webster, Pierceton, Sidney, Silver, Lake, Syracuse, and Winona Lake.
Kosciusko 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):