The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional.
3. Geographic and Historical Notes

Morgan County is located in Central Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Hendricks to the north, Marion to the north/northeast, Johnson to the east, Brown to the south/southeast, Monroe to the south, Owen to the west/southwest, and Putnam to the west/northwest. U.S. Highways 37 and 67, and Interstate Highway 70 cross the county. Elevation is 600-900 feet. In the northwestern section of the county and along the White Rock and Indian Creeks and the West Fork of the White River, the landscape is nearly level, whereas elsewhere it is moderately to slightly to steeply sloping. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. Except for the southwesterly tip, the county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area, with the southwesterly tip part of the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area.

Morgan county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17°/34° in January and 63°/86° in July. Annual precipitation is about 40 and snowfall varies from 18-28 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 10-15, and the last freeze from April 25-30. The growing season lasts about 168-178 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in livestock (hogs/pigs), soybeans and corn for grain. About half of the land is in farms and about three-quarters of that is in cash crops. Additional important cash crops include hay and winter wheat. Apples are a primary fruit, and sweet corn is a primary vegetable. Additional livestock include cattle/calves and sheep/lambs. Main natural resources include construction sand and gravel, common clay, and forestland. Water resources include the West Fork of the White River, the White Lick and Indian Creeks, and numerous lakes/reservoirs (Bradford Woods, Durham Drive, Fish Hatchery, Edgewood, Nebo, Painted Hills, Patton, Vandenbark, Whip-Por-Will and Wildwood Lakes).

Communities include the city of Martinsville, which is the county seat, and the towns of Bethany, Brooklyn, Lake Hart, Mooresville, Morgantown and Paragon.

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

Morgan 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):