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

Noble County is located in Northern Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: La Grange to the north, Steuben to the northeast, De Kalb to the east, Allen to the south and southeast, Whitley to the south, Kosciusko to the west and Elkhart to the west and northwest. U.S. Highways 33 and 6, and State Highway 3 cross the county. Elevation is 850-1,050 feet. The county’s landscape is mainly slightly sloping, except for some nearly level areas in the west and north. The landscape features oak, hickory, birch, beech, and maple trees. Mostly, the county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area, but the northwest corner pertains to the Northern Indiana Drift Plain land resource area.

Noble county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 14°/31° in January and 60°/85° in July. Annual precipitation is about 33 and snowfall about 30-40 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 10-15 through most of the county, but a few days earlier (October 5-10) in the northwestern quarter of the county. The last freeze usually occurs May 10. The growing season lasts about 148-163 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified with grain, soybeans, winter wheat and hay. Less than three-quarters of the land is in farms and about two-thirds of that is in cash crops. About half of cash income is from livestock. Main crops include hay, oats, soybeans, corn for grain and winter wheat. Sweet corn is a primary vegetable crop, and popcorn is a special crop. Livestock include cattle/calves/milk cows, hogs/pigs, and sheep/lambs. Main natural resources include construction sand and gravel, and forestland. Water resources include a multitude of lakes (the largest being the Crooked Lake, Loon Lake, Sylan Lake, and Waldron Lake); the Solomon Creek; and the Elkhart River, and the North and South Branches of the Elkhart River.

Communities include the cities of Kendallville and Legonier; and the towns of Albion, which is also the county seat, Avilla, Cromwell, Rome City, and Wolcottville (which extends into LaGrange County).

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Noble 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):