The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Orange County is located in Southern Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Lawrence to the north, Washington to the east and northeast, Crawford to the south and southeast, Dubois to the west and southwest, and Martin to the west and northwest. U.S. Highway 150 and State Highways 37 and 145 cross the county. Elevation is 600-850 feet. The county’s landscape varies with very steep slopes in the south and northwest, moderate and steep slopes northeast, and some nearly flat areas along the Lost River in the northwestern Orange County. The landscape features hickory and oak trees. The county pertains to the Highland Rim and Pennyroyal and the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys resource area.

Orange county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 18°/39° in January and 63°/87° in July. Annual precipitation is about 46 and snowfall about 12-20 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 10-15 through most of the county, and a few days later (October 15-20) in the far southern part of the county. The last freeze usually occurs April 20-25 in southern Orange County and a few days later (April 25-30) in the northern half of the county. The growing season lasts about 163-183 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in livestock and corn for grain. Less than half of the land is in farms and less than half of that is in cash crops. Almost three-fourths of the cash income is from livestock. Main crops include hay, soybeans, corn for grain and winter wheat. Apples are an important fruit crop, and tobacco is considered a special crop. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Main natural resources include crushed stone and forestland. Water resources include lake/reservoirs (Orleans and Spring Valley Lakes); the Patoka and Lost Rivers; and several creeks (French Lick, Sulphur, Upper Sulphur, Wolf, Young, and Strampers Creeks).

Communities include the towns of Paoli, which is the county seat, Orleans, and West Baden Springs.
3. Location and Historical Notes

Orange County Tobacco Production & Revenue:

Source: 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):

According to the most recent data available, Orange County ranks 13th in the State for the tobacco income per farm in 1997 as a percent of the average household income for that year. The percent of all farms that produce tobacco is 1.7%. A total of 26 acres in Orange County were devoted to tobacco production on 9 farms. For those 9 farms, tobacco income per farm ($10,775) expressed as a percentage of the Average Household Income for the county ($29,491) was 36.5% in 1997.

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 21st
Acres in tobacco production: 26
Number of farms producing tobacco: 9
As a Percent of all farms: 1.7%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 19th
Tobacco income per farm producing: $10,775
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 36.5%

[See appendices for more information.]