3. Location and Historical Notes

Putnam County is located in West Central Indiana bordered by the following counties: Montgomery on the north and northwest, Hendricks to the east and northeast, Morgan to the east and southeast, Owen to the south, Clay to the southwest, and Parke to the west. Putnam County is crossed by U.S. Highways 36 and 231 and Interstate 70.

The northern part of Putnam County pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area, and the southern part pertains to the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain land resource area. The area features hickory and oak trees. The land alternates between nearly flat and moderately to steeply sloping.

This county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Temperatures range from about 18°-36° in January and from about 63°-86° in July. Average annual precipitation is 40 inches.

The first freeze of the season occurs in Putnam County in the far northwesterly corner between October 10-15, and throughout the rest of the county between October 15 and 20. There are around 163-178 growing days.

Main crops include hay, corn for grain, soybeans, winter wheat; and main livestock includes cattle/calves, hogs/pigs, and sheep/lambs. Main natural resources include common clay, cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, dimension limestone, and forestland. Water resources include lakes (i.e., Cataract, Glen Flint, Heritage, Martins, Oakalla, and Thomas Lakes; Little Walnut Creek Reservoirs No. 3 and 5), the Eel River, and streams (i.e., Raccoon, Big Walnut, Clear, Mill, Little Walnut, and Deer Creeks).

Communities include the city of Greencastle, which is the county seat, and the towns of Bainbridge, Cloverdale, Roachdale, and Russellville.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from "Indiana County Profiles, Series 5" (2008) by John Clements, 1995.
3. Location and Historical Notes

Putnam 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):