Rush County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
3. Geographic and Historical Notes

Rush County is located in East Central Indiana. It is bordered by the counties of Henry to the north and northeast, Fayette to the east, Franklin to the southeast, and Decatur to the south. U.S. Highway 52 and State Highways 3 and 44 cross the county. Elevation is 900 to 1,050 feet.

The landscape in the eastern half is mostly steeply sloped; elsewhere it is nearly flat except slightly sloped along waterways. The landscape features cottonwood, ash, elm, maple, birch and beech trees. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Rush county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 16°/34° in January and 62°/84° in July. Annual precipitation is 40 and snowfall about 15-20 inches. The first freeze occurs October 10-15 in the northeast and October 15-20 in the southwest. The last freeze occurs April 25-30, except a little later in the far northeast, May 1-5. The growing season lasts about 158-178 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in corn for grain, soybeans, and hogs/pigs. Additional crops are hay and winter wheat. Livestock include cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. Tobacco is a special crop. Almost nine-tenths of the land is in farms and four-fifths of that is in cash crops. Important natural resources include crushed stone, dimension limestone, petroleum and forestland. Water resources include the Upper Big Blue Lakes Nos. 2 and 3; the Big Blue, Little Blue, Flatrock and Little Flatrock Rivers; and several streams (the Shankatank, Sawnee, and Deer Creeks, and the Wikoff Ditch).

Communities include the city of Rushville, which is the county seat; and the towns of Carthage and Glenwood (which extends into Fayette County).

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Rush 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, Rush County ranks 24th in the State for the percent of all farms that produce tobacco (0.9%). As of 1997, a total of 16 acres in Rush County were devoted to tobacco production on 6 farms. For those 6 farms, tobacco income per farm ($8,593) expressed as a percentage of the Average Household Income for the county ($35,434) was 24.3% in 1997.

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 22nd
Acres in tobacco production: 16
Number of farms producing tobacco: 6
As a Percent of all farms: 0.9%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 24th
Tobacco income per farm producing: $8,593
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 24.3%

[See appendices for more information.]