Scott County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Scott County is located in Southeastern Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Jennings to the north and northeast, Jefferson to the east, Clark to the south and southeast, Washington to the west and Jackson to the northwest. State Highways 56 and 256 and Interstate 65 cross the county. Elevation is 750 to 950 feet.

The landscape is extremely varied, with moderately to steeply sloping land in the interior, very steep slopes in the southwest corner, nearly flat land along the Muscatatuck River tributaries, and slight slopes in the north and southeast. The landscape features hickory and oak trees. The county pertains mainly to the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain land resource area, except that the southwest tip is in the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area.

Scott county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 19°/39° in January and 64°/88° in July. Annual precipitation is 43 and snowfall about 10-20 inches. The first freeze is usually between October 15-20, except the southeast corner (October 20-25). The last freeze happens first in the southeast corner, April 15-20; everywhere else in the county April 20-25; and latest in the far north tip, April 25-30. The growing season lasts about 168-193 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly corn for grain, soybean, and livestock. Additional main crops are hay and winter wheat. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Scott County is a tobacco producing county. About half the land is in farms and about half of that is in cash crops. Important natural resources include crushed stone and forestland. Water resources include many lakes/reservoirs (the largest being Hardy Lake, Scottsburg Reservoir, Stucker Fork Lake No. 9, Stocker Lake No. 12, Stucker Fork Lake No. 16-A, Thomas J. Miller Lake); the Muscatatuck River; and various streams (Big Ox, Little Ox, Pigeon, Kimberlin, Stucker Fork, Big Hog, Woods Fork, Flat, Coal, Quick, Honey Run, Huho Creeks; White Owl Branch; and Cammie Thomas Ditch). Communities include the city of Scottsburg, the county seat, and the town of Austin.
3. Location and Historical Notes

Scott 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, Scott County ranks 8th in the State for the percent of all farms that produce tobacco (14.9%). As of 1997, a total of 149 acres in Rush County were devoted to tobacco production on 52 farms. For those 52 farms, tobacco income per farm ($10,677) expressed as a percentage of the Average Household Income for the county ($31,306) was 34.1% in 1997.

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 8th
Acres in tobacco production: 149
Number of farms producing tobacco: 52
As a Percent of all farms: 14.9%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 8th
Tobacco income per farm producing: $10,677
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 34.1%

[See appendices for more information.]