The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Shelby County is located in Central Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Hancock to the north, Rush to the east and northeast, Decatur to the southeast, Bartholomew to the south and southwest, Johnson to the west, and Marion to the northwest. State Highways 421 and 52 and Interstate 74 cross the county. Elevation is 700 to 900 feet.

The landscape is mainly flat except for slightly sloping areas along waterways, steep slopes in the southwest, and very steep slopes near the Big Blue River. The landscape features beech, maple and birch trees. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Shelby county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17°/36° in January and 63°/86° in July. Annual precipitation is 40 and snowfall about 15-25 inches. The first freeze is usually between October 15-20, and the last freeze is between April 25-30. The growing season lasts about 168-178 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly corn for grain, soybean, and hogs/pigs. Additional main crops are hay and winter wheat. Livestock include cattle/calves, milk cows, hogs/pigs, and sheep/lambs. About four-fifths of the land is in farms and about four-fifths of that is in cash crops. Important natural resources include construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, petroleum and forestland. Water resources include the lake/reservoir Burnside Pit; the Big Blue, Little Blue and Flatrock rivers; and several streams (the Brandywine, Sugar and Lewis creeks).

Communities include the city of Shelbyville, the county seat, and the towns of Morristown and St. Paul (which extends into Decatur County).

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Shelby 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, Shelby County ranks 26th in the State for the percent of all farms that produce tobacco (0.5%). As of 1997, a total of 12 acres in Shelby County were devoted to tobacco production on 3 farms. For those 3 farms, tobacco income per farm ($15,360) expressed as a percentage of the Average Household Income for the county ($40,915) was 37.5% in 1997.

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 23rd
Acres in tobacco production: 12
Number of farms producing tobacco: 3
As a Percent of all farms: 0.5%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 26th
Tobacco income per farm producing: $15,360
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 37.5%

[See appendices for more information.]