Starke 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

Starke County is located in Northwestern Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: La Porte to the north, St. Joseph to the north and northeast, Marshall to the east and northeast, Fulton to the southeast, Pulaski to the south, Jasper to the west and southwest, and Porter to the northwest. U.S. Highways 30 and 35 and State Highway 23 cross the county. Elevation is 650 to 750 feet.

The landscape is nearly flat, except in the southeast where it slopes slightly. The landscape features hickory and oak trees. The county pertains to the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana Drift Plain land resource area.

Starke County is in the Ceantral Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are $15^\circ/34^\circ$ in January and $60^\circ/87^\circ$ in July. Annual precipitation is about 36 and snowfall about 30-40 inches. The first freeze is usually between October 5-10, and the last freeze is May 5 to 10. The growing season lasts about 148-158 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in corn for grain, soybeans, and mint. Irish potatoes are an important vegetable crop. An additional crop is hay. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Mint is a special and important crop. About two-thirds of the land is in farms and three-fourths of that is in cash crops. Important natural resources include construction sand and gravel, and forestland. Water resources include lake/reservoirs (Bass, Eagle, Hartz, Koontz, Skitz, Langenbaum, and Round lakes) and the Yellow and Kankakee rivers.

Communities include the city of Knox, which is the county seat; and the towns of Hamlet and North Judson.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Starke 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):