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

Steuben County is located in the far northeasterly corner of Indiana, bordered by the states of Michigan to the north and Ohio to the east, and by Indiana’s La Grange County to the west, Noble to the southwest, and DeKalb to the south. U.S. Highway 20 and Interstate Highways 90, 80, and 69 cross the county. Elevation is 950 to 1,150 feet.

Most of the terrain is slightly sloping, except for about a fifth of the county in the northwestern area. The landscape features maple, birch, beech, hickory and oak trees. The northern part of the county pertains to the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana Drift Plain land resource area; the southern part pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Steuben county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 14°/30° in January and 61°/83° in July. Annual precipitation is about 34 and snowfall about 33 inches. Dividing the county diagonally, the first freeze is usually between October 5-10 in the northwestern half and a few days later between October 10-15 in the southeastern half. The growing season lasts about 148-163 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in corn for grain and livestock. Other important crops are hay, soybeans, and oats. Sweet corn is an important vegetable crop, and apples are an important fruit. Livestock include cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. About three-fifths of the land is in farms and about three-fifths of that is in cash crops. Important natural resources include construction sand and gravel, and forestland. Water resources include dozens of lake/reservoirs (the largest being Big Turkey, Clear, Crooked, Fox, Golden, Hamilton, Hogback, Jimmerson, Long, Loon, Otter, Silver, Snow lakes; and Lakes Gage, George, James and Pleasant), the Pigeon River, and two streams (Crooked and Pigeon creeks).

Communities include the city of Angola, which is the county seat; and the towns of Ashley (which extends into DeKalb County), Clear Lake, Fremont, Hamilton (which extends into DeKalb County), Hudson and Orland.
Steuben 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):