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

Sullivan County is located in Southwest Indiana, bordered by the state of Illinois to the west and by the following Indiana counties: Vigo to the north, Clay to the east and northeast, Greene to the east, and Knox to the south and southeast. U.S. Highways 41 and 150 and State Highway 154 cross the county. Elevation is 450 to 650 feet.

The entire county is characterized by moderate to steep slopes, but in the north and west these are interrupted by areas of level land. The landscape features hickory and oak trees. The eastern part of the county pertains to the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain land resource area; the western part pertains to the Central Mississippi Valley Wooded Slopes land resource area.

Sullivan county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are about 17°/38° in January and 64°/88° in July. Annual precipitation is about 40 and snowfall about 15 inches. Dividing the county in half east-west, the first freeze occurs first in the eastern half (October 15-20) and a bit later (October 20-25) in the western half. The last freeze occurs first in the extreme south (April 10-15) and a little later elsewhere (April 20-25). The growing season lasts about 173-193 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in corn for grain, soybeans, and hogs/pigs. Other important crops are hay and winter wheat. Sweet corn, pumpkins and snap beans are important vegetable crops; and popcorn is a special crop. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. About three-fifths of the land is in farms and about four-fifths of that land is in cash crops. Important natural resources include coal, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, petroleum and forestland. Water resources include dozens of lake/reservoirs (the largest being Hoosier Energy Reservoir, Lake Sullivan, and Mohawk Lake), the Wabash River, and several streams (the Turman, Maria, Busseron, and Turtle creeks).

Communities include the city of Sullivan, which is the county seat; and the towns of Carlisle, Dugger, Farmersburg, Hymera, Merom, and Shelburn.

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