Switzerland County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Switzerland County is located in Southeast Indiana, bordered by the State of Ohio to the east and by the following Indiana counties: Ohio County to the north, Ripley to the northwest, and Jefferson to the west. State Highways 250, 56, and 156 cross the county. Elevation is 450 to 850 feet.

Many types of landscape are found: slight slopes (north-central), moderate and steep slopes (central), very steep (south and east), and level (far eastern boundary). The landscape features beech, maple, birch, hickory and oak trees. Almost all of the county pertains to the Kentucky Bluegrass land resource area with the exception of the far northwest tip, which pertains to the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain land resource area.

Switzerland county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 22°F/40°F in January and 64°F/84°F in July. Annual precipitation is about 42 and snowfall about 13 inches. The first freeze occurs October 15-20, except in the southeast corner (October 20-25). The last freeze is usually April 20-25. The growing season lasts about 173-188 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in tobacco and livestock. Additional crops include corn for grain, soybeans and hay. Livestock includes cattle/calves, milk cows, and hogs/pigs. About half of the land is in farms and about a third of that land is in cash crops. Important natural resources include construction sand and gravel, and forestland. Water resources include lakes/reservoirs (Lake Geneva; Camp Livingston; Bryants, Grants, Turtle, and Wade & Goose Creek Embayments), the Ohio River, and two streams (Indian Creek and Plum Creek).

Communities include the towns of Patriot and Vevay, the county seat.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
3. Location and Historical Notes

Switzerland 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, Switzerland County ranks 1st in the State for the percent of all farms that produce tobacco (67.7%). As of 1997, a total of 1,806 acres in Switzerland County were devoted to tobacco production on 366 farms. For those 366 farms, tobacco income per farm ($18,895) expressed as a percentage of the Average Household Income for the county ($31,355) was 60.3% in 1997.

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 2nd
Acres in tobacco production: 1,806
Number of farms producing tobacco: 366
As a Percent of all farms: 67.7%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 1st
Tobacco income per farm producing: $18,895
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 60.3%

[See appendices for more information.]