Tippecanoe 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

Tippecanoe County is located in West Central Indiana and is bordered by the following Indiana counties: White to the north, Carroll to the northeast, Clinton to the east, Montgomery to the south, Fountain to the west and southwest, Warren to the west, and Benton to the northwest. U.S. Highways 52 and 231 and Interstate Highway 65 cross the county. Elevation is 550 to 750 feet.

Most of the landscape across the county is nearly level, though it is slightly sloping near the Wabash River from the center of the county and to the east and northeast. Steeper slopes are found in various areas— in the north, southeast, and along the western border. The landscape features beech, maple, birch, hickory and oak trees. Almost all of the county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area, except for the northwest tip, which pertains to the Northern Illinois and Indiana Heavy Till Plain land resource area.

Tippecanoe county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 14°/32° in January and 62°/85° in July. Annual precipitation is about 37 and snowfall about 20 inches. The first freeze occurs October 15-20; the last freeze occurs first in the northwest corner (April 25-30) and a few days later in the rest of the county (May 1-5). The growing season lasts about 158-173 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in corn for grain, soybeans and livestock. Additional crops include hay and winter wheat. Apples and strawberries are important fruit crops. Sweet corn is an important vegetable. Popcorn is a special crop. Livestock are mainly cattle/calves, hogs/pigs, and sheep/lambs. About four-fifths of the land is in farms and about four-fifths of that land is in cash crops. Important natural resources include construction sand and gravel, and forestland. Water resources include lakes/reservoirs (Franklin Pond, Hadley’s Lake, and Purdue University Pond), the Wabash and Tippecanoe rivers, and several streams (Little Pine, Little Wea, Wea, South Fork Wildcat, Middle Fork Wildcat, Wildcat, Sugar, and Burnett Creeks).

Communities include the cities of Lafayette, which is the county seat, and West Lafayette; and the towns of Battle Ground, Clarks Hill, Dayton, and Otterbein (which extends into Benton County).

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