Union 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

Union County is located in East Central Indiana bordered by Ohio and the following Indiana counties: Wayne to the north and northwest, Fayette to the west and Franklin to the south and southwest. U.S. Highway 27 and State Highways 44 and 101 cross the county. Elevation is 850 to 1,150 feet.

The terrain is characterized by moderate to steep slopes across most of the county, except for a strip of almost flat land from the north-central border to the southeast near the Big Cedar Creek. The landscape features cottonwood, elm, ash, hickory and oak trees. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Union county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 16°/37° in January and 61°/85° in July. Annual precipitation is about 40 and snowfall about 16 inches. The first freeze occurs October 5-10; and the last freeze occurs first typically between April 25 and 30 in the southeastern corner, and a little later (May 1-5) in the rest of the county. The growing season lasts about 153-168 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in corn for grain, soybeans and hogs/pigs. Additional crops include hay and winter wheat. Livestock are mainly cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. About three-quarters of the land is in farms and about three-quarters of that land is in cash crops. Important natural resources include forestland. Water resources include lakes/reservoirs (Brookville Reservoir and Whitewater Lake), East Fork Whitewater River, and the Hanna and Silver Creeks.

Communities include the town of Liberty, which is the county seat.

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

Union 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, Union County ranks 21st in the State for the percent of all farms that produce tobacco (1.1%). As of 1997, a total of 8 acres in Shelby County were devoted to tobacco production on 3 farms. For those 3 farms, tobacco income per farm ($7,796) expressed as a percentage of the Average Household Income for the county ($35,644) was 21.9% in 1997.

Latest figures (from 1997 USDA Census):
Rank for acres in tobacco production: 24th
Acres in tobacco production: 8
Number of farms producing tobacco: 3
As a Percent of all farms: 1.1%
Rank in IN for percent of all farms: 21st
Tobacco income per farm producing: $7,796
Percent of County’s Ave. Household Income: 21.9%

[See appendices for more information.]