

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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# Bracken County, Kentucky

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# BRACKEN COUNTY

# KENTUCKY

RESOURCES      ATTRACTIONS      OPPORTUNITIES

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**General Description.** Bracken County is situated in the tier of counties along the Ohio River in the central eastern part of the state. The Licking River provides a small section of the southwestern border of the county. The district is wedge-shaped, with sharp, straight lines bounding the county on the east and west. Bracken was organized in 1796 out of Mason on the east and Campbell on the west. Big and Little Bracken creeks give the county its name, and they, in turn, were named for William Bracken, a hunter and pioneer who visited the territory in 1773 and settled on one of the creeks. He was killed by the Indians. Antiquarians have found numerous evidences of habitation of the county by a people antedating the Indians, but of whom no written history exists. The area of Bracken County is 130,560 acres, 96.5% of which, or 125,983 acres, constituted farm lands in 1925. The elevation of the county ranges from around 480 feet to about 925 feet above sea level.

**Population.** The county's population in 1920 was 10,210, substantially the same as reported in the 1910 census, as well as in the latest Census Bureau estimates. Foreign-born whites constitute only 1.1% of the entire population. The number of males in 1920 between 18 and 44 years of age was 1,974; number of females between the same age-limits, 1,932.

**Mineral Resources\*.** The rocks in Bracken County consist of upper Ordovician limestones, shaly limestones, and shales throughout, with the exception of areas of Pleistocene and Recent alluviation in the bottoms of the larger interior streams and along the Ohio River. The normal dip of the rocks is eastward away from the axis of the Cincinnati Arch. The county is unfaulted so far as is known.

\*Prepared by Willard R. Jillson, Director Kentucky Geological Survey.

The mineral resources of Bracken County consist principally of limestones which are broadly distributed and suitable for rural building and highway and railway construction. Some considerable deposits of residual clays in the uplands might be used for brick manufacture as could some of the transported clays of the Ohio River valley. These might also be used in conjunction with some of the limestones in this portion of the Ohio River as cement-manufacturing materials. Sands and gravels suitable for general construction and concrete-making purposes are available from the Ohio River. In the southeastern part of Bracken County a few shallow wells have produced small amounts of oil from "stray" sands in the upper Ordovician series. A new geographical map of Bracken County is now available.

**Bonded Indebtedness.** The county has authorized bond issuance to a total of \$200,000 for improvement of roads, bonds outstanding for such purpose in the summer of 1927 amounting to \$125,000.

**Surface and Soil.** Generally the surface is rolling to hilly, and the soil in most sections of average fertility, responding readily to limestone fertilization. Harvested crop lands in 1924 amounted to 27,464 acres, while the area described as pasture land was 85,879, nearly all of it capable of cultivation. There is comparatively little wooded land in the county.

**Water Supply.** As already noted, the Ohio River provides the boundary for the north side of the county, and the North Fork of the Licking River courses for a few miles across the southwestern section. Small creeks traverse other parts of the county.

**Industries.** Bracken is primarily an agricultural county, as a survey of its industries reveals. There has been practically no industrial development of the clay and limestone deposits described under "Minerals," and manufacturing is confined to the chief town, Augusta. General farming, with an emphasis put on tobacco culture, and cattle and poultry raising have furnished the



income for a large percentage of the population and are now objects of considerable development. Some indication of the interest displayed in the agricultural industry is found in the distinction gained by Bracken County in 1926 by having the largest Junior Agricultural Club camp in the state. One hundred and thirty-nine farm boys and girls enrolled in the camp. More than half the farms are said to boast of pure-bred cows, every section of the county being thus represented. Cattle valuation for the county in 1924 was \$232,136. The same interest in improved strains is shown by the sheep and poultry raisers, a county poultry association being in process of formation late in the summer of 1927 for the purpose of encouraging the raising of superior poultry.

**Crops.** Bracken County is included in the list of foremost tobacco-producing counties of Kentucky. The crop of 1924 amounted to 4,884,530 pounds, over 5,700 acres being devoted to tobacco cultivation. The corn crop that year totaled 283,686 bushels. The harvest of all kinds of hay aggregated 9,458 tons. The estimated milk production in the same year was 1,691,680 gallons, evidence of the attention given to pedigreed dairy stock being found in the average of 436 pounds of milk to the cow. Dairy products had a value of \$230,990. More than \$200,000 was the value of chickens and eggs produced in the county in the same year.

**Transportation.** The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway follows the banks of the Ohio River across the northern end of the county, providing a route of scenic attractiveness for the traveler at the same time it places numerous towns and villages of the county on the main line of the C. & O. between Covington and Newport and the Atlantic seaboard. Bus lines connect Augusta, the metropolis, with Cincinnati and Maysville, while a taxi service provides Brooksville, the county seat, with communication with the chief railroad point.

**Highways.** The county has now many miles of highly-surfaced roads, with construction proceeding steadily. The principal highways radiate from Brooksville, thus placing the county seat on direct road routes to the capitals of the bounding counties on the east, south, and west.

**Educational.** Three white high schools, employing 25 teachers, are located in this county, and 42 white elementary schools employing 42 teachers are also located here. There are as well 2 colored elementary schools with 2 colored teachers. In the public schools of the county in 1926 there was an average attendance of 1,599 pupils. But one private school, the St. James High School at Brooksville, a secondary school with an average of 12 students, is located in the county. Augusta, Brooksville and Germantown boast of modern and commodious high school buildings.

**Cities and Towns.** Augusta, the principal town, has a population of approximately 2,000. A plant devoted to the manufacture of automobile parts has long been a factor in the town's industrial life. In the summer of 1927 a shoe factory was in course of construction. The home office and one of the nine plants of the Kentucky Power Company are located in Augusta, this important utility corporation now operating in 45 Kentucky cities and towns. The main office of the Northern

Kentucky Mutual Telephone Co. is also located here, giving the county, it is said, the first installation in Kentucky of an automatic telephone system. The town has 2 banks, a newspaper, and 6 churches, and in 1927 a water system was in course of installation.

Brooksville, the county seat, is located in the center of the county and has a population of about 600. It is a banking town. Other banking towns are Foster, Germantown, and Milford.

**Opportunities.** Manufacturing enterprises of various kinds are invited by Augusta. Among the advantages listed by the community are the market afforded in the populous Cincinnati metropolitan district some forty miles distant, excellent transportation facilities by both rail and river, electric power in abundance and at attractive rates, an excellent supply of both male and female labor, good school and residence conditions, and a citizenship inclined to encourage new industries by reasonable local taxation exemptions and individual investments. One or two factory buildings were said to be available in the summer of 1927.

Those interested in agricultural investment are invited to study the county's advantages for raising dairy cattle, sheep, and poultry. Location of a milk condensery, either in Bracken County or in one of the neighboring counties, in the early future, is pointed out as a probability to be seriously considered by the prospective investor in dairying enterprises. Soil, surface, and climate of the county unite, it is claimed, to make the region potentially profitable likewise for sheep and poultry raising, with markets convenient. Fruit growing may likewise be carried on under auspicious circumstances, it is claimed.

**References.** Inquiries for specific information regarding the county may be addressed to:

Chamber of Commerce, Augusta  
J. L. Miller, County Agent, Brooksville

**T**HE Kentucky Geological Survey lists the following minerals as existing in Kentucky "in commercial or scientific quantities":

Abrasives	Manganese ore
Aragonite (Kentucky onyx)	Marble
Artificial gas	Mica
Barite	Mineral fertilizer
Bituminous rock	Mineral waters
Calcite	Natural gas
Carbon black	Ochre
Cement materials	Oil
Clay (pottery, tile, brick, etc.)	Oil shale
Coal	Onyx
Coke (beehive and by-product)	Phosphate rock
Copper	Potash
Fluorspar	Pyrites
Gravel	Rock asphalt
Gypsum	Salt
Iron ore	Sand
Kaolin	Sandstone
Lead	Silver
Limestone	Stone
	Travertine
	Zinc