Falmouth, the Pendleton County seat, lies in the broad Licking River Valley alluvium. Pendleton County, with an area of 281 square miles, was established in 1798. The population in 2004 was 15,134. Most of the settlement in Bluegrass Hills Region is in alluvial valleys. Alluvium along major streams also provides level land and soils for agriculture. The Chaplin River bottomland north of Cornishville in Mercer County (below) is especially broad. Photos by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.