



The South Fork Community in Casey County, KY is blessed to have some awesome families churning up the heart of America's entrepreneurial spirit with a number of retail stores that keep folks from all over Casey County, the region and beyond lining up to buy their fresh produce, bulk foods and spices, mile high deli sandwiches on fresh baked sourdough bread, plants, herbs, decorative planters, mulch and general merchandise. The Hoover

family, (dad) Merv, (son) Paul and their families have grown their businesses keeping everyone productive everyday (Closed Sundays). **Sunny Valley Country Store & Bakery** is a wonderful country store overflowing with high quality goods including a wide assortment of spices, grains, Bickford flavored oils, all different types of honey, jams and jellies, cereals, candies, baked goods including their delicious sourdough bread, and cheeses. On a Saturday, you can see the visitors loading up their carts with the staples that every kitchen needs. The Burckhard family gave up all artificial sweeteners and white sugar a few months ago. We now buy our 3 lb. bag of raw cane sugar every few weeks when we visit this wonderful Mennonite community. This is a perfect place to come if you want a "mile high" made-to-order sandwich made on their homemade sourdough bread. The young lady will fix the sandwich to your individual liking. The deli has an awesome selection of meats and cheeses allowing you to choose your favorites along with the type of condiments you would like as well as lettuce, tomato, pickle etc. If you are having a picnic, gathering on your boat, cabin or at your campsite, this is an ideal place to pick up a sandwich or deli platter (call ahead). The selection is vast and the service is excellent. The variety of honeys in itself is amazing. They have honeys from Tennessee and Kentucky, plus they offer a range from alfalfa blossom to orange blossom and more. Sunny Valley Country Store and Bakery is a cheery, sunny place to come and stock up. They also offer a great line of high quality knives for your kitchen (which make excellent gifts or a great addition to your knife selection). Every kitchen needs a few sharp knives for paring, cutting and dicing. Visit Sunny Valley Country Store for the freshest ingredients, herbs and spices and see why folks from all over flock here daily! Spend the day, visiting all of the Hoover shops and the South Fork Community and see why the saying "less is more" is so appropriate with this lifestyle. Give them a call at 606-787-5946.

**Misty Mountain Sales** is another Hoover enterprise. It is a great general merchandise store that is a mainstay in this bustling Mennonite community. Misty Mountain Sales has everything from clothing, shoes, hats, fabrics, kitchenware and utensils to tools, wood stoves, furniture and more. You can find an excellent selection of handcrafted quilts hanging up on the walls sewn by many of the talented ladies of the community. They have a great selection of cast iron skillets, measuring cups, spoons and some handy cotton dish rags. "Annie" picked up some of the dish rags on a recent trip. These are the best I have ever used and wash so well. They also have my favorite "Leaning Tree" cards, notepads and writing tablets that are so nice to send to a loved one or friend. The selection of wood stoves will allow you to choose the appropriate heating method for your cabin or home plus they can give some expert advice on choosing the appropriate heating



method. Visiting Misty Mountain Sales reminds you of what it was like before the big box stores like Wal-Mart came along or a century ago when the main variety, general merchandise store was the place that the town/community bought all of their merchandise other than fresh produce to sustain their family. They would shop maybe once a week, or for some, several times a year to buy a pair of shoes, a new dress or some fabric to sew their own outfits

for themselves and/or their children. The activity on a Saturday, exhibits this type of commerce and the small town community spirit that is still alive and well in the South Fork Mennonite Community. There is lots of room in the parking lot for modern cars, and also a place to tie up a horse and buggy. They are open from Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays and can be reached at 606-787-0404.

**Hillside Greenhouses & Nursery, LLC** is a sprawling greenhouse and nursery in the South Fork Community, also owned and operated by the Hoovers. They offer a wide variety of plants, flowers, herbs and hanging baskets. They also have a large selection of fresh produce, fresh fruits and farm fresh eggs. They have the widest selection of plants in general that I have ever seen including an excellent selection of peppers, tomatoes and herb plants. If you like to make homemade hot sauce or salsa, this is the place to come to get your plants. They have over 80 different tomato varieties and some of the coolest pepper plants in the Southeast. Some examples of the varieties they carry are Tabasco, Sweet Havana, chili, and pimento peppers to name a few. They also carry what is probably the largest array of herbs in the region including stevia, roman chamomile, patchouli, lemon verbena, curry, several types of basil and more. Paul takes after his father and moves speedily from one business to another. He loves the greenhouse and nursery business. His wife and children mind the store when he is not there. They are able to assist you with questions about planning a garden from the novice level gardener to the more experienced. The produce offered is mostly grown locally by the Hoovers and other families in the community and the fruit that they do bring in is of the highest quality. They have the best watermelons, melons and berries (in season) and there is nothing better on a hot summer day than to bite into a succulent watermelon or to make a big bowl of fresh fruit salad with some delicious fruit dip. Do you feel like a "Yard Crasher" moment to spruce up your landscape? Are you planting a garden either in the ground or container? Do you want to have some flowering hanging baskets to brighten up your porch area? Come to Hillside Greenhouses & Nursery to buy their healthy plants. Come visit and see why this is the best kept secret in the region and spend the day exploring. They are here to serve you and welcome your visit. Call them at 606-787-4509. Enjoy your visit and make sure that you tell Paul and family that "Annie" sent you.

