

JANUARY 2018

HINTON MILLS' CENTENNIAL YEAR

HINTON MILLS 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Frank Hinton's "Big Sale," Plummers Landing, KY 1931

2018 marks the 100th year Hinton Mills has been serving hardworking farm families in our area. We'll be celebrating all year long with special sales, events, and merchandise. Watch the newsletter or our Facebook page to be sure you don't miss a thing!



January anniversary special

100TH
ANNIVERSARY



KENTUCKY
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

LIVIN' IT UP
IN
LEX

VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE KCA CONVENTION &
AG INDUSTRY TRADE SHOW JANUARY 11-12 IN
LEXINGTON!

A LOOK BACK AT WHAT THE HINTON MILLS TEAM DID IN DECEMBER 2017...



WE got into the Christmas spirit at all of our locations by having a total of 10 entries amongst the Cynthiana, Flemingsburg and Morehead Christmas parades. We decorated the stores and enjoyed the annual Hinton Mills family Christmas party at Double S Entertainment, complete with dinner, visits with Santa, and bowling.

SANTA'S REINDEER

got a special treat thanks to the nearly 1,000 kids who picked up free bags of reindeer feed at our locations and sprinkled it across their lawns on Christmas Eve.



May's Lick Mills' Jim Galbreath (pictured above) stopped by the Tom Browning Boys and Girls Club in Maysville to visit and drop some off for Santa's special helpers.



MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

President Dr. Jay Morgan stopped by Fleming County Farm Supply for a brief visit. Dr. Morgan has strong agriculture roots and core values the entire Hinton Mills team can get behind. We look forward to working with Dr. Morgan to assist MSU in any way that we can going forward!

THE KENTUCKY RETAIL FEDERATION picked up hats, calendars and koozies to include in 140 gift baskets for Kentucky legislators. We hope it was a good reminder that America was built on the backs of small family-owned businesses like ours!



THANKS to the students from Flemingsburg Elementary who brought cookies to the team at Fleming County Farm Supply. They were great!



OUR FIRST

100-year anniversary calendar out of the May's Lick location was given to Mr. Gerald Woods, who got a special copy signed by all the employees there.

Hinton Family Recipes

CREAM CANDY

From Maxine Hinton (Bud Hinton's Mother)

3 c. sugar (or 1-1/2 c. brown & 1-1/2 c. white)
1/2 c. boiling water
1/2 c. cream (thick)
lump of butter
1 tsp. vanilla

Pour water into cream. Stir into sugar. Add lump of butter. Don't stir after put on stove. Boil up and down then mix in cold water until hard against cup. Pour onto buttered marble slab to cool. Sprinkle vanilla over it. Cool and pull.



HINTON MILLS

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

OUR success depends on the dedication and hard work of the Hinton Mills team. They bring a great work ethic, a wealth of knowledge about a wide variety of agriculture topics, and a dedication to serving our customers. We want to highlight them and the great work they do every day on behalf of Hinton Mills. Help us wish these four team members happy birthday this month!



DONNIE LOGAN

Location: Frank Hinton & Son
Team Member Since 1988

Donnie worked summers and Saturdays starting at age 15, but has been around the business his entire life. He's interested in farming and considers it an honor to have gotten to work closely with his grandfather, uncles, & cousins. He feels fortunate and honored to be a manager and part of the company that his great grandfather started.



CHRIS WOLLUMS

Location: Hinton Mills Cynthiana
Team Member since 2017

Chris was a Hinton Mills customer before he was an employee, and still farms in addition to his responsibilities at Hinton Mills Cynthiana. He enjoys the fact that Hinton Mills is a small, family business, and the relationships he's been able to continue as a member of the team.



MICHAEL DAVIS

Location: Hinton Mills Cynthiana
Team Member Since 2016

Michael drives the spray truck out of the Hinton Mills Cynthiana location and in the off season serves at whichever location needs his help. He enjoys getting to know customers on their own farms, and appreciates the down-to-earth, friendly atmosphere of the company.



MARVIN FLORA

Location: Fleming County Farm Supply
Team Member Since 2015

Marvin loves working with customers and figuring out how to get them exactly what they need when they need it. He can't imagine doing anything other than being in agriculture, and is glad to be involved in the industry through his work at Hinton Mills.



HINTON MILLS AT 100

Life in a Small Town

A LOOK BACK AT HINTON MILLS AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR CUSTOMERS, EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS AND FRIENDS.

BUDDY CROPPER



Mr. Buddy Cropper stopped by May's Lick Mill in late December to talk about his career in agriculture, being a Hinton Mills customer, and what it's like being the early bird.

"The early bird gets the worm," might be Mr. Buddy Cropper's favorite saying, and it would be tough to come up with a phrase that better fits the way he has run his farming operation over the past 60 years.

Born in 1935, Mr. Cropper grew up in May's Lick, and after a two-year stint in the army, decided he wanted to return home to the farm.

"They were going to send me to OCS, and I said, I want to tell you something. I've had a boss for two years – I don't want to be bossed the rest of my life. I'm going back to May's Lick and farm."

And that's exactly what he did.

He's had a lot of success, likely due in large part to the fact that he has never been afraid of hard work. "When I was 75 years old," he said, "I could hang the bottom rail of a tobacco barn and keep up with the best of them."

It wasn't long after he bought his first farm that he started looking to expand. "When I went to FHA to get an operating loan (for that first farm), the guy there told me 'ain't no way you can ever pay for that farm.' Within three years, I'd bought two more."

That means when May's Lick Mill was built in 1968, Mr. Cropper was already running a large and successful operation. With the store being less than a half-mile from his house, it was natural that he became a customer.

"They were always accommodating," he said. "It was awful handy here for me."

Hard work and innovation eventually led Mr. Cropper to become one of the largest producers of burley tobacco in the state. In 1980, he sold more than 50,000 pounds of tobacco through the Maysville market in one day, which at the time was the highest one-day total for any individual ever at that market.

"Mr. Cropper was always the earliest one to do everything," said Ronald Lawrence, manager at May's Lick Mill. "First one to put out his tobacco beds, first one to set, first one to cut – everything."

Because of that, it seems only fitting that Mr. Cropper was the first customer we featured in this series.

Being first comes naturally to Mr. Cropper. Not only was he the first to get his crop started every year, but he was the first one in the area to sell float plants – which he purchased out of Florida, and he was the first farmer in Mason County to use Hispanic migrant labor.

Initially, Mr. Cropper used workers from Eastern Kentucky when he needed more help than he could source locally.

"They stayed in the basement, they took a shower in the milk house, and my wife cooked them three meals a day," he said. "They were Brickles — Virgil, Vangil, Larry and Hank were the ones who helped me the most. They stayed up here all week, and I'd take them back home on Saturday night. They lived in Soldier, right above Morehead there."

Mr. Cropper and his wife, Mary Catherine, also had four children. "My wife taught school for 27 years, and we had four kids who liked four days of being four years between them," he said.

His daughters both married into farming — one son-in-law farms in May's Lick, and the other farms in Robertson County. His sons went into transportation — one is a boat captain for Crounse, and one drives a truck.

Besides raising tobacco, Mr. Cropper has farmed thousands of acres in the area, owned multiple dairies, and at one time, ran a successful replacement dairy heifer business. He has had a major influence on agriculture across the area.

We asked Mr. Cropper for advice he might have for a young person who wanted to get into farming today. Do they have to start out with a larger farm? More capital? "Not necessarily," he said. "You've just got to be efficient at what you do." And, if we were going to learn from his example, be the hardest working early bird out there.

