

# Amish Neighbors

## A Vital Part of Our Community

by Connie Erisman

Several businesses in the Amish community are located along County Road 636 off BB Hwy in Dixon. Including Ira Yoders sawmill.



Produce and fresh eggs are always for sale in season. Jethro Eicher's Manufacturing business sells storage buildings and garages, to name just a few of the items they build. He has his own trademark. Eichers manufacturing recently teamed up with Roman and his sons to build a barn for a customer. A harness shop has replaced the former Dogwood Dell Greenhouse. Several Amish women sew, bake, grow and sell fruits and vegetables to residents of Dixon and the surrounding community. These hard working, friendly entrepreneurs welcome the business of area residents.

One neighbor reported seeing the most beautiful load of cedar lumber he had ever seen when visiting Ira Yoder's Sawmill. Mr. Yoder stated he was filling an 18 wheeler load of cedar for a company's order in Arkansas.

The Amish value hard work and perseverance as a means to provide for their families needs. They have no electricity in their homes and instead prefer to spend their evenings under coal oil lanterns. Many of their business operations use diesel engines or other natural means to generate heat and power for their needs.

Amish families prefer to live a modest life foregoing modern amenities such as electricity, telephones, and automobiles. They believe that modern conveniences detract from the solidarity of their community. They attempt in their own way to follow Biblical mandates that refer to living in the world but not OF the world. Their children attend school within the Amish community, grades 1-8. They anticipate 34 children in the 2016-17 school year.

Their unique mode of transportation is usually seen as a black buggy, seating two or more adults pulled by one lone horse. They come to town usually weekly to do business with local merchants but most of the necessities of living are produced by their efficient use of the land around them. We enjoy and are blessed to have the Amish as neighbors!

It is believed that the first two Amish families moved to Dixon in 1980. The two matriarchs Joseph Eicher and Maylen Yoder's families still reside here. It is estimated that there now are approximately 13 families nestled along the secluded countryside on the outskirts of Dixon. Each family averaging anywhere between 5 and 10 children. One family has 16 children. They all remain self sufficient. They are known to locals as being very hardworking, soft spoken, kind individuals. It is refreshing to see the young people working in the gardens or on equipment right along side the adults as one drives by. It is a wonderful way to teach the children responsibility and how to contribute to the family's needs.

It is a common occurrence In Dixon to see a horse and buggy tied, (parked) along the uptown streets or at a local grocery store. In recent years Missouri has been deemed to have the fourth-highest Amish population growth in the country, with 41 settlements and more than 10,000 Amish living in the state.

Missouri's Amish population grew by 15 percent over the last two years, fueled by large family size, high retention rates and immigration. Researchers say Missouri is attractive to the Amish because of available and reasonably priced farmland, as well as the rural atmosphere that assures them of cherished privacy.



The Amish are very diligent in their business practices according to neighbors. You will find trades such as a sawmill, newly constructed butcher shop, handmade furniture and storage buildings from Eicher Manufacturing among other various occupations. The butcher shop started out just processing deer and now it has grown to soon becoming a custom butcher shop complete with new building to house the business. It is operated by Roman Miller, who along with his sons, completed construction of the new butcher shop in the fall of 2015. The establishment is named R-N Butchering...the first initials of Roman and his wife. He jokingly commented about the idea of RN, "after all RN nurses take good care of people," he smiled, referring to his chosen name for the business. Roman stated that customers can bring the meat of their choice for processing on location. The Millers will make summer sausage, jerky and snack sticks out of it also if requested.



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