

Mushroom Market Tent

The mushroom related activities will be in the large tent at the corner of Broadway and Court Street (behind the Courthouse) in Irvine.

---The **Mushroom Market** will be open Saturday, April 29 (9 a.m. – 7 p.m.) and Sunday, April 30 (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). Looking for fresh morels? Mushroom hunters bring mushrooms to the market to sell and set the price per pound. Various types of mushrooms, such as morels, shiitakes, and oysters, can be sold. Availability is dependent on the amount that local hunters bring to the mushroom market tent. Scales will be used to weigh the mushrooms. A “Mushroom Hunting Field Guide” will be sold at the market. Other free educational information will be available also.

---Judging of the **Mushroom Hunting Contest** will be at the market on Saturday, April 29 at 4 p.m. Prizes of \$50 for the largest and \$50 for the most mushrooms will be awarded by Estill County Soil Conservation. The contest gives individuals a chance to put their hunting skills to the test to find the most and largest. Hunters go out individually, often to their secret hiding spots, to find the elusive morels. When the morels are brought to the Mushroom Market Tent they are weighed and measured by length and gird. The weights and measurements are recorded and compared to award the hunter who brings in the largest and the hunter who has found the most mushrooms.

---The **Foodway (food traditions) Stage** will feature several activities from cooking demonstrations with different varieties of mushrooms to interviews with hunters and growers and mushroom log inoculations

---**Educational panels** on morel mushroom hunting in Estill County will be on display. A natural habitat **terrarium** containing the elusive morel will also be on display.

--**Mushroom Hunting Bags** will be available in two types for sale at the market. They are both soft and lightweight, yet sturdy, with belt loops, comfortable handles, and an adjustable shoulder strap. The shoulder strap adjusts to fit your comfort level and keeps your hands free. The nylon mesh gently holds and aerates your harvest to keep bacterial growth to a minimum while maximizing the escape of spores and allows debris and critters to escape. Both bags fold in its own self-storing 6.5” by 8” pouch which have been personalized with “Mountain Mushroom Festival, Irvine, KY”.

- The mesh “**Shroom Sack**” is 19.5” wide by 17” deep. The bottom is gusseted to expand with your increasing bounty.
- The mesh “**Bucket Bag**” has a flexible ring in the solid bottom that keeps the bag open to help distribute the weight to minimize the crushing and grating of mushrooms. The bag stores flat and opens up to form a bucket 12” wide by 15” deep to hold mushrooms when shrooming.

---**Mushroom Photo Stand** will be close to the Mushroom Tent on Broadway. Get a picture made to show that you were at the festival!

