

Making Memories Come True

Last year a Middle School teacher in the foothills of N.C. asked her students to write an essay on something memorable they did at Christmas with their friends or family. A half dozen of her students wrote about going with their fathers to chop down the family Christmas tree. Since all the stories were very similar, the teacher started checking a little further about the truthfulness of each story. She was surprised to find that none of the young boys had fathers in their lives nor had they ever been with anyone to harvest a Christmas tree. This very caring teacher set about to make these memories come true for this very special group. The teacher found a Choose & Cut Christmas Tree Farm and arranged for the boys to visit the farm and cut down a few trees and dig a small tree for planting at their school. Each boy helped make a fresh wreath for the teacher's home. Smiles and energy were on the menu for the day on that North Carolina Choose & Cut Christmas tree farm.

The above true story or a similar one is repeated yearly somewhere across the state. Four hundred (400) Choose & Cut Christmas Tree Farms in N.C. are beginning to make preparations for the thousands of visitors who will visit their farms this Holiday season. In Watauga County there are about thirty (30) Choose & Cut Christmas Tree Farms bringing hundreds of families to the High Country to visit, eat, and stay. The Fraser fir is the tree of choice in the mountains. These farms offer a variety of services. They allow families to choose a REAL tree to take home for the centerpiece of the holiday season and assist with the harvesting of the chosen tree. Many farms will shake, bag, and tie the tree on the vehicle for the trip home. Hayrides, refreshments, gift shops, petting animals, and a host of other activities make the trip to select a REAL N.C. Christmas Tree fun for the entire family. N.C. Christmas Tree farms have fresh greenery creations available: wreaths, roping, and other products to make this Christmas a memorable one. Many of these farms offer school tours and other group educational activities.

The farmer will educate a family on how to keep their tree fresh during the Holiday season. Farms can supply them with a tree stand and tree removal bags to make the task of taking down the tree convenient. After the Choose and Cut season, the farmers will plant at least one tree to take the place of the harvested one, insuring that these wonderful trees will be there for future generations. North Carolina Choose & Cut Christmas Tree Farms take pride in providing families with the best and freshest Real Christmas Tree. The aroma of a Real tree in our home is a memory we all cherish from childhood.

North Carolina harvests about 4.5 million Christmas trees yearly making it number two in the nation. With more than 1400 Christmas tree growers in the state, this commodity brings in about \$110 million revenue yearly.