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FAYETTE TREE FARMS GROW HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Uniontown, PA – With two weeks until Christmas, Fayette County farms are shining bright this holiday season.

With almost 40,000 acres dedicated to Christmas tree farms, Pennsylvania ranks third in the nation for its sheer number of tree farms at 1,400, and fourth for the number of Christmas trees sold each year at more than 1 million.

Fayette County, with agriculture as its major industry, boasts thousands of acres of farmland - at least 200 of which are operated by the Cellurale family.

After suffering a devastating fire in October 2017, Cellurale Garden Center still had a successful holiday season last year. Located along state Route 119 in Dunbar Township, Cellurale's is celebrating its first Christmas in a new facility.

"We've been here since 1954," owner Marilyn Cellurale said. "We grow all our own Christmas trees - the majority of which are now Fraser fir. We're very busy during the holiday season, which seems to start earlier and earlier every year."

This year, the garden center's first trees were cut and ready for families to take home just two days after Thanksgiving.

"A lot of people feel like you eat your turkey, go shopping that Friday and then go get your Christmas tree to start the holiday," Cellurale said. "We will keep cutting them every day until noon on Christmas Eve."

In addition to Christmas trees, Cellurale's is known for its poinsettias, wreaths, pillows, blankets, window swags and bows.

"In Fayette County, our cemeteries are really taken care of, so we do a lot of cemetery work this time of year," Cellurale said. "We do a lot of fundraising for the community during the holidays, too, which helps the communities and helps us. It's a win-win situation for everybody."

Cellurale said one of her favorite parts of operating a Christmas tree farm is having her customers turn into friends.

"We've been here forever, so you get to know people. We have generations coming in that remember coming to us when they were little to get a tree; then, they grew up, got married and now they're bringing their spouses for a tree," she said. "Then, maybe they'll have children who will come to get a tree, so we've really become a family tradition for a lot of people."

Cellurale Garden Center is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 724-628-6211; email marilyn@cellurales.com; or search "Cellurale Garden Center" on Facebook.

Elsewhere in Fayette County, Quarter Pine Tree Farm has been helping families select the perfect Christmas tree for many years.

Located at 130 Hardin Hollow Rd., Smithfield, Quarter Pine offers customers a selection of more than 100,000 traditional pine or Fraser, Canaan, Concolor or Douglas fir trees and more.

"Our properties consist of low and high elevation tree farms," the company's website, www.jimrockis.com, states. "The high elevation farm allows Fraser fir to grow better because of excellent soil and adequate rainfall. The low elevation farm grows better quality Douglas fir and Concolor fir varieties of Christmas trees."

Quarter Pine offers fresh cut, choose-your-own and live potted trees, fresh swags and wreaths. Stand Straight Tree Stands are also available and will "allow you to have your tree up and ready to decorate within 30 seconds," the website states.

The tree farm is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., seven days a week, until Christmas. For more information, call 304-282-3470.

"We strive to provide excellent quality and service to our customers," the website states. "The staff at Quarter Pine is always helpful and will go out of their way to provide any extra help or information to make your holiday experience as pleasant as possible."

Another Fayette County tree farm spreading holiday cheer this year is Henckel Farms, located at 557 Five Forks Road in Wharton Township.

Saws are provided for those wishing to choose and cut their own Christmas trees, which can then be baled or wrapped on site. Tree varieties include Douglas fir, Scotch pine and more.

For hours and more information, call 724-329-4271 or email dixie1107@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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