



4305 North Sixth Street, Suite A  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Phone: 717-238-9765 or 800-547-2842  
Fax: 717-238-9985  
Website: [www.christmastrees.org](http://www.christmastrees.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 27, 2009

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Martin Speece, (717) 238-9765, [communications@christmastrees.org](mailto:communications@christmastrees.org)

**PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE**  
**2009 PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW WINNERS**

HARRISBURG, PA- Perry Valley Tree Farm, Millerstown, PA, exhibited the Grand Champion Christmas tree at the 2009 Pennsylvania Farm Show. The Grand Champion was a Douglas Fir and was selected as the winner from the over 1,600 votes cast by Farm Show visitors during the two-day voting period. Perry Valley Tree Farm is owned by Tom and Audrey Balthaser. The Reserve Champion honors went to Rich and Mary McClellan of McClellan's Tree Farm in Middleburg, PA with a Concolor Fir.

This is the only commodity at the Farm Show where the public gets to choose the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, after selections are made by professional judges. It has been a popular activity for visitors since the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers initiated the practice in 1997. The winners have the opportunity to compete at the national level through the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA).

Trees in the competition must have been grown in Pennsylvania on land owned and operated by the exhibitor and must be within six to eight feet. Trees may be either naturally grown or sheared and shaped by the exhibitor. This was the first year that tabletop trees were a part of the competition. These trees also must have been grown in Pennsylvania on land owned and operated by the exhibitor and tabletop - cut trees must be 36" maximum height and tabletop - containerized trees must be 30" maximum height from soil line to top of tip.

Listings of first- place winners by category are as follows:

All other True Fir: Ed and Nancy Campbell, Heritage Acres  
Fraser Fir: Tom and Audrey Balthaser, Perry Valley Tree Farm  
Douglas Fir: Tom and Audrey Balthaser, Perry Valley Tree Farm  
Concolor Fir: Rich and Mary McClellan, McClellan's Tree Farm  
All Species Pines: Tom and Audrey Balthaser, Perry Valley Tree Farm  
Colorado Blue Spruce: Brad Berkey, Berkey's Nursery  
All other spruce: Peston Eshelman, Plough Farms  
Tabletop-Containerized: Tyler Shaw  
Tabletop- Cut: Darryl Bowersox, Hill View Christmas Tree Farm

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers, with just under 300 members, works to promote and develop a community of interest among growers of Christmas trees in Pennsylvania and adjoining states, as well as to raise public awareness about Christmas trees. To find a Christmas tree grower near you, visit our website at [www.christmastrees.org](http://www.christmastrees.org).

###