

### Greetings from Evergreen Farm!

Your continuing support of local agriculture is much appreciated. I think back to when this land was about to have more than twenty houses built upon it, and I am happy we thought that Christmas trees might do well here, and we were able to buy it.

Because of your continuing support, we have made some changes. The driveway entrance has been widened to avoid the congestion of the past. We have moved the tree-processing yard to the side of the warming shed to avoid the occasional chaos in front of the shed. A new shaker has been added to decrease the time spent waiting in line.

We are constantly evaluating our mix of tree species to see what is most popular with you, and what our soil and climate will allow us to grow. Of course, it takes many years before we can see any changes we initiate.

Our experimental “exotic” plot contains trees that are native to Korea, China, Georgia (Europe), West Virginia and the Rocky and Sierra Mountain ranges. The only tree we sell that is native to our land is the white pine.

You may notice a small price increase – prices had been the same for three years. Meanwhile, our costs have increased due to the high price of fertilizer, along with fuel for all the machinery, and other expenses of growing.

We are happy to report that biodiversity continues at Evergreen Farm. For the first time in several years, we have seen ruffed grouse in the forest! Move over, turkeys! A hermit thrush spent much of the winter noshing on red winterberries. This bird is properly names, as it is difficult to spot. Various hawks and owls are always present along with deer, fox, coyote and a host of other mammals. You may have noticed some Christmas trees that were bashed or browsed by deer. We continue to plant or nurture a wide variety of trees, such as: red, white and black oak, white birch, hognut and mock nut hickory, black walnut, ironwood, red and black cherry and crab apples. Shrubs and vines providing food and cover are: grape, Virginia creeper, winterberry, maple-leaf viburnum, blueberries, black raspberry, blackberry and butterfly bush. Partridge berry winter green, wild strawberry and trailing blackberry act as ground covers. Evergreen is a pantry!

We remain dedicated to provide you with the best experience at our farm. Again, thank you for coming. Merry Christmas!

Bill, Julie, family and crew.