

Cut-Your-Own

Lenoir Farmer Grows Christmas Trees

The Scotty Dawson family of Albritton is harvesting the second yield from a crop they began planting in 1976. The crop is Christmas trees!

By December 1, the cut-your-own Christmas tree lot, a variation from the pick-your-own produce fields, had sold over 100 trees, said Joyce Dawson, Scotty's wife. The Dawson Christmas tree farm is one of two in the county; according to Dawson another Christmas tree farm is located in northern Lenoir. The Dawson farm grows eight acres of Virginia and white pines for use as Christmas trees. The Virginia pine is a three-to-one favorite for use as a Christmas tree and Joyce Dawson said they have planted according to customer demand.

"I never realized so many people had six-foot ceilings," Joyce Dawson said. "We have been turning people away who are looking for big trees," Scotty Dawson added. "We haven't

anything left over six feet. Demand has been very good for Christmas trees and many people know the farm is here and have realized we tag trees and they came out early in order to have the best selection." During the first year of public Christmas tree sales on the Dawson farm, only two trees were tagged and not picked up, the Dawsons said. The farm opened three acres for public sales in 1982 and Dawson said three acres make up this year's selection lot.

The Christmas tree farm began in 1976 with one acre and each year the Dawson family has added an additional acre lot. This spring three acres will be added and in the future the Dawsons plan to expand to about 18 acres. Each year the cut trees are replanted and Dawson said about 900 trees are planted per acre.

"I do not plan to get much larger than 18 acres," Christmas tree farmer Scotty

Dawson said. "I don't want to get any bigger than what my family can work. Going real big would be getting back into the same rut as cluded each acre requires about 30 hours work per year, Dawson said.

"Here we are three lawnmowers later," Dawson said. "Even though I don't really know what kind of return the Christmas tree business will make, I think they will be better than most field crops." Like most crops planted in eastern North Carolina, Dawson explained, the Christmas trees grow faster on the best soil and once at about four feet, the pines advance about a foot per year. And, while losing field crops to the drought conditions this summer, the Christmas tree farmer said the lot of pines survived with little or no damage.

Selling trees direct to the public cuts out two or three tobacco — paying out most of the profits for labor costs." The field is currently worked by Dawson, his wife and son Greg. According to Dawson, seedlings are planted in the spring, all trees are pruned once or twice a year, fertilized, sprayed with pesticide every two weeks during the summer months, and the fields mowed. All labor in-

of the middlemen and reduces the price customers have to pay, Dawson said. The height and the shape determines the price of the Dawson Christmas trees and each is cut at the time of purchase. Christmas trees shipped to the area have been cut for at least a month if coming from the North

Carolina mountains and trees from Canada are cut in the late summer, Dawson said. The average size three sold on the farm this year is about six feet tall, the Dawsons say. But the sizes have ranged from four to 12 feet and Dawson said the most charged has been \$35 for the tallest tree.



CHRISTMAS TREES GROWN IN LENOIR - The Scotty Dawson family began a Christmas tree farm in 1976. This year is the second Christmas season the Dawsons have sold trees from their farm in Albritton and

they have served customers from Duplin, Jones, Onslow and Lenoir counties. Pictured above, Greg Dawson prepares to cut a customer's Virginia pine Christmas tree.

Extension Tips On Selecting A Christmas Tree

With the coming of the holiday season, there is nothing like a Christmas tree to give you that special holiday spirit. Selecting a live tree can be an enjoyable as well as rewarding family experience. By taking a few precautions, you can have a safe holiday as well.

Be sure to select a fresh tree and keep it fresh. To test for freshness, gently bend a needle; if fresh, it should not break. Also, lift the tree a few inches off the ground, then bring it down abruptly on the stump end. The outside needles should not fall off.

To keep your tree fresh, make a fresh cut two inches above the original cut. This

allows the uptake of water. Immediately put the stump end in water. Never let the tree stand run out of water. Check it daily since your tree may use over two pints of water per day.

Finally, avoid combustible decorations and lights with worn or frayed cords. Place the tree away from fireplaces, radiators, television sets and other heat sources. Be sure to unplug tree lights before retiring at night and any time you leave home. Precautions such as these ensure a safe and happy holiday.

For more information, contact Phil Denlinger at the Duplin County Agricultural Extension office. The phone number is 296-1996.



The value of a diamond is determined by the four "C's": cut, carat, clarity and color.

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to your many friends for your kindness shown to Willard during his sickness and Margaret's accident. May the Lord bless each of you.

Margaret & Willard Johnson

Moore Named Local NCSU Alumni Fund Campaign Chairman

J. Michael Moore of Warsaw has been appointed to head the North Carolina State University Alumni Association's 1983-84 Loyalty Fund Campaign in Duplin County.



Alumni Scholars program in 1975. Forty-four Caldwell Scholars are studying on campus this fall, each having received an annual scholarship award of \$3,000 which is renewable for the student's four years of undergraduate study. The awards are based totally on merit. The alumni association has set a goal to support 100 scholars by NCSU's centennial in 1987.

Bryce R. Younts, executive secretary, said the association will work to further support academics through a variety of programs to attract top scholars and to reward outstanding teaching and re-

search and extension activities.

Joseph A. Powell of Raleigh is nationwide chairman of the campaign. He and William M. Barnhardt of Charlotte, association president, will be directing efforts within the next month to contact the more than 60,000 alumni throughout the country.

Powell said support in Duplin and the surrounding area will be an important factor in the association's ability to meet the \$1-million goal.

Murphy Appointed

Representative Wendell H. Murphy of Duplin County has been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey to a special commission to study the State laws providing liens for real estate builders and workmen.

The Legislative research commission study will consider whether existing laws are adequate to ensure payments to contractors, laborers and material men.

Murphy, a Rose Hill agribusinessman, represents Duplin and Jones counties in the 19th House District.

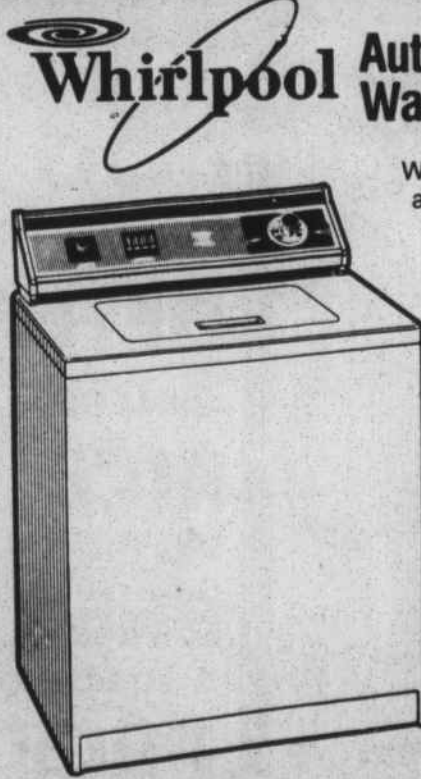
NCSU Alumni have set a national goal for 1983-84 of more than \$1 million to support academic programs at the school.

Moore and a staff of volunteers will be calling on the some 220 NCST alumni in the county in the next few weeks asking them to help expand the endowment supporting the John T. Caldwell Alumni Scholars program and seeking their support through membership in the association.

The NCSU Alumni Assoc. established the Caldwell



FREE!



When you come in and purchase any Whirlpool Automatic Washer (like the Whirlpool Model LA7680XM shown at left)...we'll give you almost two months' supply* of Tide Detergent **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

No strings attached, no "ifs, and or buts"! So come in today and take advantage of this great deal.

*Based on estimates by the manufacturer of Tide, one box of family-size Tide is enough for almost two months under normal use for an average family of four.

Page Home Appliances, Inc.

313 N. Front St. Warsaw



Christmas Check List

- Collars
- Nametags
- Leashes
- Stainless Steel Bowls and Buckets
- Quail Release Traps
- Pigeon Traps
- Quail Recall Pens
- Dog Bells
- Camouflage Stools
- Nite Lites
- Wheat Lites
- Sunburst Lites
- Batteries
- Spotlights & Holders
- Baker Tree Stands
- Scopes
- Ammunition
- Gun Slings
- Game Calls
- Deer Lures
- Duck Boat Rope
- Gun Racks & Cases
- Duck & Quail Straps
- Breed Caps
- Breed Jackets
- Breed T-Shirts
- Breed Mud Flaps
- Breed Window Classics
- Spittoons
- Rainsuits
- Retriev-R-Trainers
- Training Dummies
- Batteries
- Flashlights
- Rechargeable Batteries
- All Types of Bulbs
- Belts
- Force Collars
- Choke Chains
- Camouflage Boat Cushions

- Camouflage Clothing
- Insulated Coveralls
- Non-Insulated Coveralls
- Pants & Jackets
- Bib Overalls
- T-Shirts
- Hunting Vests

WALLS CLOTHING

- Hollofil Vest Sizes: 6-46
- Goose Down Vests
- Goose Down Jackets
- Goose Down Parkas
- Brown Duck Insulated Coveralls Sizes: 4-60 Reg. or Tall
- Camouflage Insulated Coveralls - Sizes: 4-48 Reg. or Tall
- Green Insulated Coveralls Sizes: 36-48 Reg. or Tall

- Decoy Paint Kits
- Duck Boat Paint
- Camouflage Netting
- Burlap
- Camouflage Gunning Bags
- Gun Cleaning Supplies
- Decoy Bags & Cord
- Blank Pistols
- Decals & License Plates
- Handmade Decorative Decoys
- Dog Prints
- Shoulder Patches
- Whistles & Lanyards
- Belt Buckles
- Nylon Chaps
- Cloisone Tacs
- Stopwatches
- Compasses
- Brass Snaps & Rings
- Break-Train Scents
- Syringes
- Vaccines
- Tattoo Kits
- Dog Brushes
- Flea Sprays
- Happy Jack Products
- Vitamins
- Breed Books
- Bumper Stickers
- Ceramic Figurines
- Walnut Curio Boxes
- Pewter Pins
- Dog Chains
- Tie-Out Stakes
- Parts & Repair of All Lites
- Handwarmers
- BB Pistols
- BBs & CO(2) Cartridges
- Truck Hat Racks

Boots

- Iron Duke-12" Size 6-13
- Iron Duke-16" Size 6-13
- Seafarer 31 1/2" Insulated Hip
- Seafarer 31 1/2" Non-Insulated Hip
- Troller 36" Non-Insulated Hip
- Northerner 36" Insulated Hip
- Northerner 27" Non-Insulated Hip
- Coonhunter 27" Insulated
- Nylon Top Coonhunter Insulated (Same as Pre-1980 Red Ball)
- Sizes: 6-13 on above
- Boys' Troller Hips 11-6
- Northerner Insulated Chest Waders
- Wick Dry Socks

CARHARTT CLOTHING - Brown Duck

- Pile-Lined Vest Sizes 2-52
- Blanket-Lined Jacket Sizes: 36-46
- Blanket-Lined Coat Sizes: 36-50
- Hunting Vest with Bag Sizes: 34-52
- Nylon-Faced Hunting Pants Sizes: 30-48
- Nylon-Faced Bib Overalls Sizes: 30-48
- Double Knee Bib Overalls Sizes: 10-60
- Blanket-Lined Hunting Coat Size: 34-56
- Game Bag - One Size Fits All
- Detachable Hoods
- Blue Denim 14 oz. Jeans Size: 29-46
- Blue Denim Pile-Lined Vest Size: 34-52
- Blue Denim Pile-Lined Coat Size: 36-48

RIFLES & SHOTGUNS AT COST PLUS 10%

Check our prices. You will be glad you did! We carry many more items plus can order most anything you need. Normal next-day delivery service via UPS for those of you who cannot come by. We are open daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. SPECIAL CHRISTMAS HOURS - 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily and Sundays 3 to 6 p.m. We are your hunting-dog supply headquarters. Brittany Spaniel pups and older dogs usually available out of our National Ch. Senator T.J., Texas Open Champion Oakeshield's Flashback or Ch. Goshen's Doctor Sam. Boarding by appointment only.

Goshen Kennels & Supply Co.

Owned and Operated by Frank, Donna & Erica Norris
Located 6 miles north of Kenansville off of Hwy. 11
Ph. 296-1981

Shop With Us

We're the store with **MORE!**

MORE friendly service!
MORE fine quality!
MORE values!

WE HAVE A LARGE SELECTION OF GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS, TOO!

Ethel's Shoppe

N. Center St. Mount Olive 658-3118