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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **2015 White House Christmas Tree Selected**

(September 30, 2015) – Bustard's Christmas Trees in Lehigh, PA has already had their first visitors searching for a special Christmas Tree. Angela Reid, White House Usher, along with White House Superintendent of Grounds Dale Haney and Jim Adams with the National Park Service visited the farm owned by Glenn & Jay Bustard on September 30, 2015 and selected a Fraser fir to be used in the White House Blue Room this coming holiday season. The tree stands 19 feet tall and measures about 11 feet wide. Haney said, "This tree has great branching and beautiful foliage. I think it's going to look great in the Blue Room."

The White House staff were at the Bustard's farm because they had won the National Christmas Tree Association's (NCTA) National Christmas Tree Contest held in July 2015 in Spring Grove, IL and became Grand Champion. This is the first time Bustard's Christmas Trees has won the National Contest, and the first time they have entered the contest. "They looked over 4 trees pretty thoroughly," said Jay Bustard. "Like most people, but maybe more so for them, they're very particular about the tree they want. I think they picked a great one."

Christmas Trees have been in the Bustard family for over 85 years. In 1961, the Bustards bought a tree farm in New Brunswick, Canada and began growing Christmas Trees. Glenn and Jay are third generation in the business. With their mother Virginia they grow trees on 60 acres of land and sell approximately 7,000 trees per year offering over 10 varieties. The Bustard family is looking forward to presenting the 19 foot Fraser fir this holiday season.

*(White House Staff Select Christmas Trees, page 2)*

“A fresh, farm-grown Christmas tree is a great tradition in our country, and we Christmas Tree farmers love this 50 year tradition,” said Blake Rafeld, NCTA president and a Christmas Tree grower from Ashland, OH.

Members of the National Christmas Tree Association have presented the official White House Christmas Tree for display in the Blue Room since 1966. 2015 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> year a member from the National Christmas Tree Association has presented the official White House Christmas Tree. For Real Christmas Tree selection and care tips, or to find a Christmas Tree farm or lot in your area, visit [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org).

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## **ABOUT NCTA**

### **About the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA)**

The National Christmas Tree Association is the national trade association representing the farm-grown Christmas Tree industry. NCTA represents 600 active member farms, 29 state and regional associations, and 4,000 affiliated businesses that grow and sell Christmas Trees or provide related supplies and services. It is estimated that those affiliated with the NCTA produce roughly three-quarters of the farm-raised Christmas Trees in the United States. To learn more, visit [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org) or call 800-975-5920.