Christmas 2009 Vol. 12

## **Greetings from Evergreen Farm!**

Thirty years and still growing – thanks to you! As you have seen, or will see, the December 2008 ice storm did not spare Evergreen Farm. It took three days just to clear the driveway! About forty white birch have been removed the plantation, and more will likely succumb. Many Christmas trees were crushed or damaged by falling branches and trees.

The good news- many white birch seedlings are growing in the same areas. We hope to transplant some of them along the access roads. More good news – the heavy rains of June resulted in extra growth on the trees.

We like to think our shearing methods have resulted in our best trees yet. All shaping of the trees is done with shearing knives and hand pruners. It takes more time as opposed to machine shearing, but the results are worth the effort. The trees are much more natural looking.

We hope you have noticed our hand-crafted decorations: wreaths, table pieces, and roping made by our family and staff - with our own greens.

Wildlife continues to flourish – amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and insects all find a niche at Evergreen.

Thanks once again for your support of Sterling agriculture. We wish you peace and a Merry Christmas.

Bill, Julie, family and staff.