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## Uxbridge farm recognized for "Green Friday" efforts

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

UXBRIDGE — The

Uxbridge-based Arrowhead Acres farm was recently applauded for their work related to

"Green Friday," which is celebrated annually on the same day as Black Friday to shift attention from the shopping season to the environmental benefits of selecting a fresh cut local Christmas tree.

State Rep. Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) Department of Agriculture Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, and Deputy Commissioner Ashley Randle recently presented Arrowhead Acres Owners David and Vicki Morin with a proclamation from Gov. Charlie Baker.

"It was an honor to join David and Vicki Morin this morning as they celebrate the start of the Christmas season and Green Friday. Arrowhead Acres is one of the many great family businesses in Uxbridge and across the 8th Worcester District and it is especially important for all of us to support our local businesses this holi-

day season," said Soter.

"Green Friday" also extends to promoting other ornamentals, swags, poinsettias, and other live green decorations, according to a press statement. The 2017 Agricultural Census reports Massachusetts having 265 Christmas Tree farms with sales of \$3.5 million statewide.

"It is important to emphasize the benefits in purchasing a fresh Christmas tree. Local trees keep open space and replacement trees are planted each year. Purchasing a fresh Christmas tree reduces the number of artificial trees entering landfills. But most of all, cutting your own trees is a great family recreational activity outdoors that has become a tradition," said Commissioner Lebeaux.

Arrowhead Acres

has planted up to 35,000 trees in the past 10 years and is expecting a peak number of trees available this year. The farm has a total of 48 acres, about half of which has Christmas trees, according to a statement. A big component of the farm is with weddings, an average 100 a year, and new developments on the farm include renovation of the banquet hall and barn. The farm also has a petting zoo.

David Morin, a Coast Guard veteran, also used the opportunity to cut down a tree as a donation to the local Coast Guard base.

"It's opening day for Christmas Trees at Arrowhead Acres Farm and what a great day it is!" the farm reported.



Courtesv

Left to Right: State Rep. Mike Soter, Owners Arrowhead Acres David and Vicki Morin, Dept. Agriculture Commissioner John Lebaux, Dept. of Agriculture Deputy Commissioner Ashley Randle with Governors Proclamation in honor of Arrowhead Acres "Green Day Declaration" and the cutting of a fresh Christmas Tree being donated to the Coast Guard Base.