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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York (CTFANY)
Winter Convention**

Coming Friday and Saturday, January 27 & 28, 2012, the Christmas tree farmers in New York will have the opportunity to attend one of the most educational meetings in recent years. On the program will be Cornell Professor George Hudler on common insects and diseases and what to do about them with Cornell Integrated Pest Management team of Elizabeth Lamb and Brian Eshenaur (including Pesticide Credits), Penn State Emeritus Professor Larry Kuhns “ If I knew then what I know now!”, Cornell’s Michelle Podolec regarding smart phones and other media, the two Sues from Virginia – Sue Bostic and Sue Hoffman, both back by popular demand on wreath decorating and more, Brett Crosby on Risk Management issues related to estate planning, Farm Bureau’s Kevin Cook on Workman’s Comp issues, CTFANY’s Richard Moore on the Check off program update, CTFANY’s Dave Hicks and Gary Henderberg on buying and selling bough material, Bluebird Society’s John Rogers, and Farm Family Katie Piretti on insuring risks related to the tree industry.

Attendees will have networking opportunities in the exhibit hall where the “tools of the trade” are exhibited, and buyers and sellers can get together over food opportunities over refreshments and lunch. A formal banquet with entertainment by “Anybody’s Guess” of tree growers Jack & Faye Beckwith and band members will lead a show by other CTFANY members following a delicious buffet dinner. An Awards luncheon will be the highlight of the convention.

At the general membership meeting, new board members will be running for office and voted into the association; new officers and the new Executive Director Mary Jean Packer and transition team will be introduced.

Wreath competition, Peter Goderie, CTFANY Director and chairperson, announced three categories of competition: Novice Decorated, Master Decorated, and Open class Kissing Balls. Registration forms are on the website and also available from the Executive Director.

Seasoned and new growers alike are welcome to attend the convention, as well as exhibitors of Christmas tree industry related businesses. The convention is being held centrally in Verona, NY, near Rome and not far from Syracuse. Registration details are available from Robert Brown, CTFANY Executive Director, 10 Trippanyville Road, Norfolk, NY 13667-3214, (315) 323-7761 and also on line at the CTFANY web site www.Christmastreesny.org under events.