

DAILY DIGEST



The folks at Ashe County's **Cline Church Nursery** get the hard-won honor. It's a competition, not luck that put siblings **Amber Scott and Alex Church** in this position to make North Carolina proud.

And last year, the duo delivered a Christmas tree to **Vice President Kamala Harris**. Wow. Super successful. The 19-foot tree -- which is approximately 23 years old -- was taken down at the Cline's farm on Wednesday. **First lady Jill Biden** is expected to receive the tree on Monday.

The brother and sister have two children each. Violet Scott, 10, and Annabelle Scott, 7, go to Westwood Elementary School in West Jefferson. Sawyer Church, 10, and Jackson Church, 8, go to Mountain View Elementary. They'll also be at the White House when the tree gets delivered. What an experience for them.

The approximate 700-acre farm was started by parents Cline and Ellen Church in the 1970s. The first Christmas tree harvest occurred there in 1981. The farm sells some trees at its Fleetwood nursery, but expects to sell about 65,000 Christmas trees this year to wholesalers.

A lot of us will be buying Christmas trees probably starting next week. A few are probably already up and lighted. More than one-fourth of all Christmas trees sold in this country come from North Carolina. The Tar Heel state ranks second in production to Oregon.

Live Christmas trees are "an American made product that's grown by farmers on American soil," says Jennifer Greene, director of the N.C. Christmas Tree Association, an organization that promotes Christmas trees.

Find out more about this family and the importance of Christmas tree farming to North Carolina's economy by reading this **report**.

Kevin Ellis

dailydigest@businessnc.com