

MOOSE  
BRAND  
Christmas  
Trees  
Reg TM



H. Mike Thu was too lengthy for presentation at Penn State Ag Progress Days - thus I will fax to D.C. & mail hard copy to same. Thanks Moose Craul 8/21/05

## MAPLE HILL FARMS

OFFICE: P.O. BOX 648, LEWISBURG, PA 17837-0648 **Fax 8-22-05**  
PHONE & FAX 570-524-0791 **522-5654**  
Donald R. "Moose" Craul **1325 hrs.**

NURSERY: WILLIAM PENN DRIVE & AIRPORT ROAD, LEWISBURG, PA 17837  
PHONE & FAX 570-524-0791  
Jeff Craul

PLANTATION: R.R. 3, BOX 357, WELLSBORO, PA 16901-9468  
PHONE & FAX 570-724-1792  
Dave Craul

August 16, 2005  
At Penn State University-MPD

Good Morning Mr. Secretary. Thank You for coming to Pennsylvania and provide us the opportunity to comment on the Farm Bill. I know it is especially appreciated by Dean Steele and his entire staff at the Penn State College of Agri Science.

A brief general background, so you know where I'm coming from: Here at Penn State 9 June 1952 - AM I was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Inf. - color blindness kept me out of the Glory Outfits - afternoon diploma in April, 90 days later, Ft Benning Ga, preping for the Police Action in Korea. Following a medical release in 1953, I spent 25 years in Sales and Management with 2 of the Fortune 500 Companies - in the Northeast. I guess my 3 years in Detroit, may not qualify for the NE.

In 1955 I purchased my first 216 acre farm in Tioga Co. and started our production nursery and Christmas Tree business, on an old potatoe farm. We now own about 550 acres and, least several hundred in Tioga & Union Cos. We service customers in the NE and Central U.S. - most recently with plants for the CREP Program. I believe there could be some real economies achieved in this Program.

In 1957 I joined the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Assn. and the National Assn both founded here in Pennsylvania. Been a member of both since 1957 and a PA Board member for over 25 years and serving as President for an unrecertified, over 4 years. Last week at Indiana PA summer meeting, I was awarded first ever Honorary Membership. The end of this year I will complete my sixth year on the College of Agriculture Ag Council, Board of Directors.

Pennsylvania's Oldest-New Nursery - Founded 1955

Growers of fine Fir, Spruce, Pine and Deciduous Trees

Plantation 10 miles southeast of Wellsboro, PA



1955-2005  
MAPLE HILL FARMS  
Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Assn.

Secretary of Agriculture - Comments by D.R. Cravil

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Many years ago, I also served on the original Board - 2 terms - ~~when~~ <sup>when</sup> the Agricultural Alumni Society was established.

After all of this, I guess my main claim to fame - if there is such a thing, is being the supplier of BIG Christmas Trees, to the White House, for the last 25 years. Christmas of 2000 my tree was in the Blue Room, of The White House. We have visited The White House, about a dozen and a half times, between Christmas and New Years, for private family tours. One year, met outgoing President Reagan and incoming President Bush. We had correspondence with both, after leaving office.

We also supply trees to the Chevy Chase Club in MD, Smithsonian, in D.C. and DuPont's Longwood Gardens, suburban Phila. They were in Tioga Co, last week, selecting and tagging their BIG trees for the '05 Christmas Season. We are expecting a call in near future - <sup>from the White House</sup> as soon as it cools down a bit, to set a date for their annual visit to Tioga Co, to select & tag this season's trees. Several years ago, we supplied a 31 ft tree for the Mayor of OK City

① Motherhood and apple pie are formula funds - McIntyre-Stennis Hatch - Smith Lever, Evans Atkin et al. - to the Land Grant Colleges and Universities across the United States. These are the "GUT" funds that assure constant and consistent funding - so when something hits the fan, like plum pox; Penn State and our folks at Biglerville, can act immediately and take action to stop it in its tracks. We just can't wait for the wheels of Washington to supply funds. With formula funding, we already have teams ready for action.

② Which brings us to the point: NE agriculture contributes substantially to the U.S. economy. Major problem - a very large part of this contribution is made by MINOR CROPS fruits, vegetables, grazers, mushrooms, sheep, aquaculture, cranberries and yes, Christmas Trees (P.A. is #4) These "minor crops" just don't get the attention of the composers, when they are marking up the farm Bill. The only thing they see is cotton, corn, beans and cattle.

Secretary of Agriculture - Comments by D.P. Crail

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Summary: Without these formula funds:

McIntyre Stennis

Hatch

Evan-Allen

Smith Lever

Animal Health Disease Research Ext

et al

The College of Agricultural Science at Penn State and all other Land Grant and Research Institutions, will be unable "to be in the trenches" and the first line of defense - or offense if needed - in emergencies. And, unfortunately they are occurring more frequently, every day, and not about to change, in the foreseeable future.

We NEED - the Country needs this formula funding

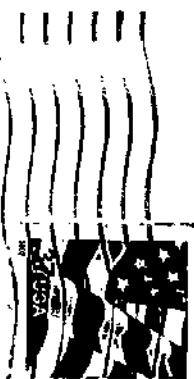
Thank you for listening.

Copy: Dean Robert Steele



## MAPLE HILL FARMS

P.O. Box 648  
Lewisburg, PA 17837-0648



The Hon Mr. McJohanns

USDA Sec. of Agri

11 Farm Bill Forum

c/o Office of Exec. Secretariat

1400 Independence Ave SW Washington, DC 20250-3355

PIESEL

SECRETARIAT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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