

Kids Korner

Stages Of A (Cut And Wrapped) Christmas Tree

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MOHRSVILLE (Berks Co.) — While working on his family's Christmas tree farm, Devin Potts, 8, said his favorite machine is the one that drills a hole into the stump of a tree.

The hole, drilled in the middle of the stump end, helps center the tree in the tree stand. The tree is nourished through the hole from water in the stand.

Devin's brother, Wesley, 10, likes the electrical "tree shaker," which vibrates the tree.

The tree shaker removes all the debris on the tree, such as leaves and dead needles. Wesley uses his foot to press down on a pedal, like a car's gas pedal, to vibrate the tree for about 10 seconds or so.

Both like the tree wrapper, though. With help from the Cammauf brothers Justin and Brent, a tree is loaded to the back of the

machine, top first. Wesley turns the crank, which moves the tree through a spindle. The spindle is pushed, winding twine around the tree — wrapping it well — by Devin.

The trees are then loaded onto a pickup for delivery to a customer.

The Potts brothers have a lot of other chores at Northwind Farm while the busy holiday tree cutting season is under way.

Both would like to cut some trees down when they get old enough. And they'd like to help their dad, Doug, and mom, Lynn, plant some trees someday.

Wesley and Devin help out as much as they can on the 20-acre Christmas tree farm. They help out a lot to ready the trees for the busy "cut your own" season in Mohrsville.

*All photos by
Andy Andrews*



Wesley likes to operate the electrical "tree shaker," which vibrates the tree.



Devin Potts, 8, left, said his favorite machine is the one that drills a hole into the stump of a tree. The hole, drilled in the middle of the stump end, helps center the tree in the tree stand. The tree is nourished through the hole from water in the stand. Helping him is Brent Cammauf.



Justin Cammauf, left and his brother, Brent, cut a Douglas Fir for a customer at Northwind Farm.



With help from Justin Cammauf, a tree is loaded to the back of the wrapper, top first. Wesley turns the crank, which moves the tree through a spindle. The spindle is pushed, winding twine around the tree — wrapping it well.

