

Media Advisory  
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## **Alice in Dairyland to Cut Season's First Official Wisconsin Christmas Tree**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Monday,  
November 24, 2008**

**Valley View Tree Farm  
W798 Valley View Road  
Burlington, WI 53105**

*Located just 8 miles Northwest of Burlington*

Wisconsin's 61<sup>st</sup> Alice in Dairyland, Ashley Huijbregtse, will cut down the state's first official Christmas tree in a ceremony at 10:00 a.m. Monday, November 24, 2008 hosted by the Stankus family on their Burlington tree farm.

A fourth-grade class from Cooper Elementary School in Burlington will participate in the one-hour ceremony. The season's first official Wisconsin Christmas tree will be marked with a ribbon and the fourth-grade class will run through the farm to find the tree that "Alice" will cut down. During their visit to the Valley View Tree Farm, the students will learn about the Wisconsin Christmas tree industry and possibly watch demonstrations on tree shaking, baling and wreath making.

The tree will be brought to Cooper Elementary School where it will stand in a place yet to be determined.

Wisconsin Christmas tree growers harvest over 1.8 million Christmas trees each year, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> in national tree production behind Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan and Pennsylvania. The most popular Christmas tree varieties grown in Wisconsin are Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir, Scotch Pine, White Pine and Spruce, including White, Black Hills and Colorado Blue.

In 1993, the Stankus family planted 350 trees and continued planting 500 trees each year until 2001, when Valley View Tree Farm sold its first trees. Valley View Tree Farm offers more than 4 ½ acres of choose-and-cut trees. Their selection includes Fraser, Balsam, Canaan, Douglas, Concolor Fir, Norway, Colorado Blue Spruce and Scotch Pine. Valley View Tree Farm provides saws, shaking and baling and an indoor restroom. They also sell fresh evergreen wreaths, garland, centerpieces and gifts. Customers can utilize the sledding hill for free, weather permitting. The farm is located 8 miles Northwest of Burlington. From the junction of Hwy. DD and Hwy. D in Honey Creek, travel west on Hwy. D for ¾ mile to Valley View Road. Turn left and travel one mile. Valley View Tree Farm is located on the right.

Racine County will host the 2009 Alice in Dairyland finals in May. Alice in Dairyland serves as the state's agricultural ambassador, educating consumers about the state's diverse \$51.5 billion agricultural industry. Visit Racine County's Website [www.aliceindairyland.com](http://www.aliceindairyland.com) or call 262-763-3676 for more details regarding the Alice program and Finals.

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