

# 2021 May Maple Syrup Inquiry

Project Code: **192** – Maple Syrup Survey

Reference Period: 2020 and 2021 for taps, syrup production, and sap run. 2020 for sales data.

Questionnaires: One version. Mailed April 22. Contacting operators with 100+ taps.

Release: *Crop Production*, June 10, 2021 (12p.m. EST)

Purpose: To collect information on 2021 Maple Syrup production, as well as sales data for the 2020 maple syrup crop. Estimates set from this survey include current year and previous year maple syrup production, current and previous year taps, previous year price per container and previous year overall price per gallon.

## Terms and Definitions:

**Maple syrup-** The liquid food derived by concentration and heat treatment of the sap of the maple tree to which nothing has been added.

**Sap-** A colorless liquid with a light, sweet taste that flows inside the maple tree. It is from this sap that maple syrup is produced. It takes approximately 30-40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup

**Sap run-** Period of time during which sap is flowing out of tapped maple trees. Will start/end earlier or later based on regional weather conditions.

**Sugar Percentage-** The amount of sugar in the maple sap. Affects how many gallons of sap is needed to make a gallon of syrup. Typically around 2% but 1-5% is considered a normal range.

**Sugarbush-** A group of maple trees used for the production of Maple Syrup, sometimes called a maple grove.

**Sugarhouse/Sugar shack-** Building which houses the equipment needed for turning the maple sap into syrup.

**Tap/Taphole-** A hole drilled into a maple tree, into which a metal spout (tap) is inserted. Sap will run from the tap into buckets or hoses for collection.

## Watch out for:

Overall this is a fairly short, straight-forward survey, but there are a few things to watch for as you conduct interviews:

Pay attention to the specific include/exclude statements to know when to add or omit data items.

Syrup produced compared to number of taps. Remember: average is about 0.32 gallons/tap.

Sap run is usually about 30 days long. Last year's start ranged from Jan 2 – Feb 15 and ended April 10 – May 5. If operations report dates well outside of this range be sure they are only giving you the dates when sap was flowing. In some cases respondents may be giving you the date when the trees were tapped rather than when sap was first collected.

Be mindful of high/low prices. Retail prices were around \$43-52/gallon whereas bulk sales were about \$2.50/pound.

Cases in which the operation didn't have taps last year, but do this year OR had taps last year but don't this year. In these instances, leave good notes explaining the status of the operation.

Out of business operations: **\*REMEMBER\*** Marking an operation as 'out of business' means that they are out of business for ALL agricultural production. This is not the same thing as just being not producing maple syrup. If the respondent reports being out of business, please leave a detailed note explaining what happened to the operation. Statisticians in the field offices really appreciate your notes when they're reviewing records!