



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA TO MEASURE MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, March 5, 2008 – Last spring, the New England states produced 773,000 gallons of maple syrup, 12 percent below the previous year’s production. Nationwide, maple syrup production decreased 13 percent from 2006. Combined, the New England states were responsible for 61 percent of national production in 2007. The top three producing states were Vermont, Maine and New York.

New England Agricultural Statistics, a field office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is responsible for publishing the official USDA maple production statistics for five New England states (excluding Rhode Island). “The annual survey of maple producers is supported by the North American Maple Syrup Council, and the statistics generated are the basis for many decisions made by producers and maple industry representatives throughout the region,” said Gary Keough, Director of the New England Field Office of NASS.

When the sugaring season is winding down in April, approximately 2,200 questionnaires will be mailed to New England producers. Those who do not return their forms by mail in May will be contacted by the Concord, New Hampshire office and asked to complete the survey by telephone.

The national survey results will be available in the *Crop Production Report* from Washington, D.C. on June 10, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. All reports are available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov within minutes of the scheduled release time.

As with all NASS survey work, individual producer information is kept strictly confidential and is exempted from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with other reports to establish state and national estimates.