

Wisconsin's Maple Syrup Production Explodes

Wisconsin's 2004 maple syrup production increased 32 percent from 2003 to 100,000 gallons, maintaining the state's rank of 4th place in U.S. production. Sugar content of the sap showed no change from last year, requiring only 35 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup.

About 400 maple syrup producers responded during April and May to report production and price information. These producers received \$29.10 per gallon for their 2003 production, 20 cents less than a year earlier.

Eighty percent of the producers who responded felt that temperatures this season were ideal for sap flow. This was a large change in opinion from the 2003 season, when 26 percent of producers reported ideal weather. Twelve percent of this year's producers indicated that temperatures were too warm for sap flow, and only eight percent reported temperatures too cold. For favorable sap flow, warm days and cold nights are desired.

The estimated number of taps set during the 2004 season was 385,000, a decrease of 15,000 from the 2003 season. The average yield per tap for Wisconsin's producers was 0.260 gallons, up from 0.190 gallons last year.

The average beginning date for Wisconsin's maple season was March 14, with a closing date of April 8, 2004. This year's 25-day season was 3 days shorter than last year and consisted of several runs. Most producers were very pleased with their crop saying it's the best in many years, while very few producers in the state indicated a poor season.

Producers in the state reported 63 percent of the maple crop was medium in color, 18 percent was dark, and 19 percent was light. Last year 36 percent of the syrup was dark colored, and 10 percent was light. The remaining 54 percent was of medium color.

Nationally, maple syrup production for 2004 totaled 1.51 million gallons, up 20 percent from last year's production of 1.26 million gallons. The U.S. price per gallon for 2003 averaged \$28.30, up 80 cents.

Nationwide, sugar content of the sap was slightly lower than the previous year, as approximately 42 gallons of sap were required to produce a gallon of syrup. This is in contrast to 41 gallons of sap needed to produce one gallon of syrup in 2003, and 45 gallons in 2002. Most syrup was medium colored, with more light syrup produced than last year.

Maple Syrup

State	Production		Average price per gallon		Value of production	
	2003	2004	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 gallons		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
WISCONSIN	76	100	29.30	29.10	2,315	2,212
Connecticut	10	11	47.20	48.60	472	486
Maine	285	290	19.40	22.50	5,335	6,413
Massachusetts	37	50	39.50	41.90	1,896	1,550
Michigan	59	80	32.50	31.20	2,438	1,841
New Hampshire	60	83	41.10	43.00	3,411	2,580
New York	210	255	26.30	26.80	6,838	5,628
Ohio	51	78	32.30	35.10	2,423	1,790
Pennsylvania	52	60	26.70	27.40	1,602	1,425
Vermont	420	500	27.00	27.80	13,770	11,676
United States	1,260	1,507	27.50	28.30	40,500	35,601

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

Maple Syrup: Price by Type of Sales, and Size of Container, by States, 2003

Type and state	Gallons	1/2 gal.	Quarts	Pints	1/2 pints
	Dollars				
Retail					
WISCONSIN	28.40	15.30	8.30	4.95	3.15
Connecticut	36.90	21.00	12.30	7.50	4.70
Maine	35.70	19.20	11.00	7.10	4.90
Massachusetts	35.00	20.10	12.10	7.50	5.00
Michigan	33.10	18.60	10.10	6.10	4.40
New Hampshire	34.60	20.10	11.80	7.20	4.20
New York	30.20	17.80	10.40	6.50	4.30
Ohio	29.40	17.40	10.20	7.10	4.30
Pennsylvania	28.80	17.50	10.00	6.00	3.80
Vermont	31.70	18.70	11.50	7.10	4.60
Wholesale					
WISCONSIN	27.70	15.20	8.30	4.50	2.85
Connecticut	31.30	16.70	9.00	5.30	3.00
Maine	28.50	16.90	8.30	4.90	2.90
Massachusetts	27.20	16.80	9.20	5.60	3.40
Michigan	27.50	14.90	8.50	4.80	3.70
New Hampshire	27.60	17.00	9.60	5.50	3.40
New York	25.50	14.70	8.00	4.80	3.00
Ohio	24.10	15.80	9.00	4.70	1/
Pennsylvania	27.20	15.70	8.30	4.80	2.90
Vermont	27.80	17.10	9.60	5.80	3.60

1/Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.