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WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER

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The Wisconsin Farm Reporter *is compiled from data and reports released by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). All NASS data and reports are available free at* www.nass.usda.gov

Farm Labor

Lake Region

There were 44,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of January 12-18, 2020, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor* report. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $15.55 per hour, up $0.90 from January 2019. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 38.4 hours in January 2019.

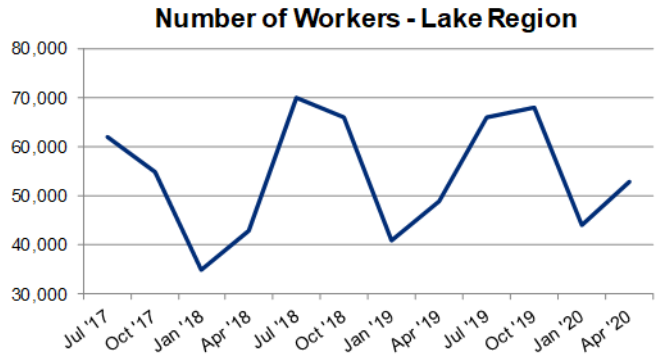
During the reference week of April 12-18, 2020, there were 53,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $15.26 per hour during the April 2020 reference week, up $0.79 from April 2019. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 39.8 hours in April 2019.

United States

There were 688,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2020, up 9% from the April 2019 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 568,000 during the week of January 12-18, 2020, up 14% from the January 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $15.07 per hour during the April 2020 reference week, up 2% from the April 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of $14.19 per hour, up 3%. Livestock workers earned $14.10 per hour, up 4%. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $14.16 per hour, was up 3% from the 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.3 hours during the April 2020 reference week, down 1% from the hours worked during the April 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $15.28 per hour during the January 2020 reference week, up 2% from the January 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of $14.18 per hour, up 3%, while livestock workers earned $14.22 per hour, up 3% from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $14.20 per hour, was up 3% from the January 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.2 hours during the January 2020 reference week, up 2% from the hours worked during the January 2019 reference week.



Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region[1] and United States: 2019-2020

	Lake Region			United States		
	April 2019	January 2020	April 2020	April 2019	January 2020	April 2020
Hired workers on farms.....(1,000 workers)	49	44	53	629	568	688
Hours worked by hired workers .....(hours per week)	39.8	41.0	41.6	40.7	40.2	40.3
Wage rate [2]						
Field and livestock combined.....(dollars per hour)	13.90	14.80	14.60	13.73	14.20	14.16
Field .....(dollars per hour)	14.61	15.22	14.56	13.80	14.18	14.19
Livestock .....(dollars per hour)	13.51	14.65	14.62	13.61	14.22	14.10
All hired workers .....(dollars per hour)	14.47	15.55	15.26	14.71	15.28	15.07

1. Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. 2. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Winter Wheat Forecast

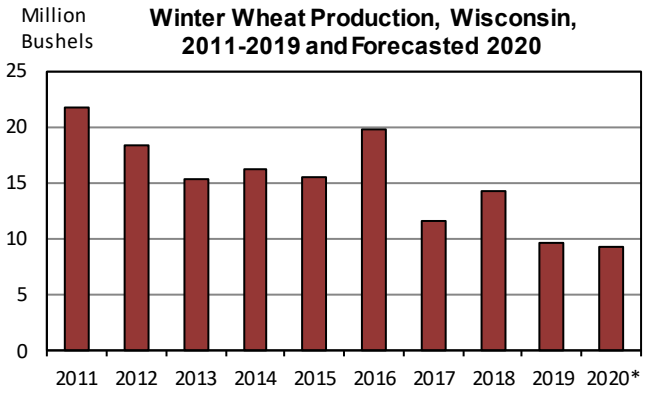
Winter wheat production in Wisconsin is forecast at 9.23 million bushels, 4% below last year's 9.60 million bushels. Based on conditions as of June 1, the State's winter wheat yield is forecast at 71.0 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from the May 1 forecast and up 7.0 bushels per acre from last year. Wisconsin winter wheat growers intend to harvest 130,000 acres for grain, down 13% from 2019.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.27 billion bushels, up 1% from the May 1 forecast but down 3% from 2019. As of June 1, the United States yield is forecast at 52.1 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last month but down 1.5 bushels from last year's average yield of 53.6 bushels per acre.

The estimates in this report are based on June 1 conditions and do not reflect weather effects since that time. The next crop production forecast, based on conditions as of July 1, will be released on July 10.

Winter Wheat Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, Selected States and United States: 2019 and Forecasted June 1, 2020

State	Area harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(1,000 acres)		*(bushels)*		*(1,000 bushels)*	
Colorado	2,000	1,650	49.0	38.0	98,000	62,700
Kansas	6,500	6,500	52.0	49.0	338,000	318,500
Montana	1,900	1,550	50.0	50.0	95,000	77,500
Oklahoma	2,750	2,700	40.0	38.0	110,000	102,600
Texas	2,050	2,400	34.0	33.0	69,700	79,200
Washington ..	1,700	1,640	70.0	74.0	119,000	121,360
Wisconsin	**150**	**130**	**64.0**	**71.0**	**9,600**	**9,230**
United States	24,327	24,275	53.6	52.1	1,304,003	1,265,700



*Forecasted June 1, 2020

Maple Syrup

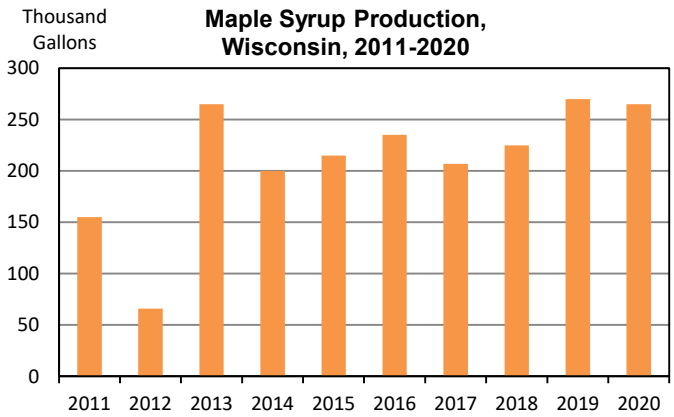
Wisconsin's 2020 **maple syrup** production was 265,000 gallons, down 5,000 gallons from 2019. The number of taps decreased by 20,000 in 2020 to 780,000 taps. Yield was 0.340 gallon per tap, slightly above the 0.338 gallon per tap in 2019. In 2019, the average price Wisconsin maple syrup producers received was $32.50 per gallon, up 10 cents from 2018.

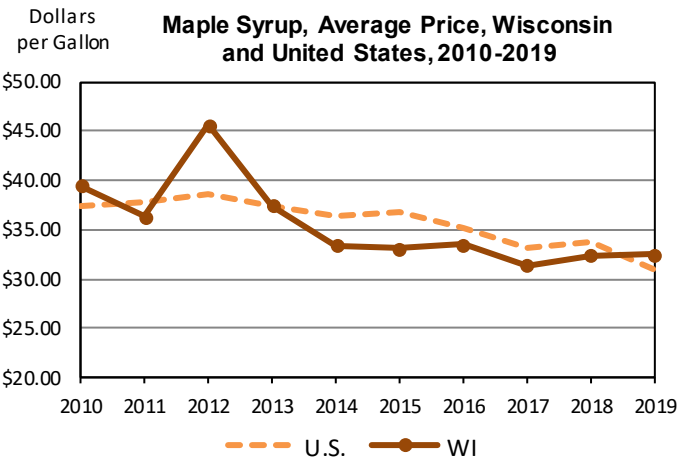
The 2020 Wisconsin maple syrup season began on February 15, 2 weeks earlier than last year. The season ended on April 26, compared to April 30 last year. This year's season averaged 29 days, 5 days longer than last year.

The 2020 United States maple syrup production totaled 4.37 million gallons, up 5% from the revised previous season. The number of taps totaled 13.5 million, up 1% from the revised 2019 total. Yield per tap was 0.324 gallon, up 0.012 gallon from the revised previous season.

The earliest sap flow reported was January 2 in New York. The latest sap flow reported to open the season was February 15 in Wisconsin. On average, the season lasted 34 days, compared with 30 days in 2019. The 2019 United States average price per gallon was $31.00, down $2.80 from 2018. Value of production, at $129 million for 2019, was down 9% from the 2018 season.

Beginning in 2019, maple syrup estimates were discontinued for Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, and West Virginia.





Maple Syrup: Taps, Yield, and Production, States and United States: 2018-20120

State	Number of taps			Yield per tap			Production		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
	(1,000 taps)			(gallons)			(1,000 gallons)		
Connecticut [1]	73	(NA)	(NA)	0.247	(NA)	(NA)	18	(NA)	(NA)
Indiana [1]	70	(NA)	(NA)	0.257	(NA)	(NA)	18	(NA)	(NA)
Maine	1,870	1,950	1,970	0.288	0.267	0.299	539	520	590
Massachusetts [1]	320	(NA)	(NA)	0.225	(NA)	(NA)	72	(NA)	(NA)
Michigan	600	620	570	0.275	0.315	0.298	165	195	170
Minnesota [1]	65	(NA)	(NA)	0.200	(NA)	(NA)	13	(NA)	(NA)
New Hampshire	560	540	530	0.291	0.274	0.291	163	148	154
New York	2,730	2,800	2,800	0.295	0.293	0.287	806	820	804
Ohio [1]	400	(NA)	(NA)	0.225	(NA)	(NA)	90	(NA)	(NA)
Pennsylvania	670	680	710	0.212	0.231	0.238	142	157	169
Vermont	5,670	6,000	6,150	0.342	0.345	0.361	1,940	2,070	2,220
West Virginia [1]	66	(NA)	(NA)	0.121	(NA)	(NA)	8	(NA)	(NA)
Wisconsin	**750**	**800**	**780**	**0.300**	**0.338**	**0.340**	**225**	**270**	**265**
United States	13,844	13,390	13,510	0.303	0.312	0.324	4,199	4,180	4,372

(NA) Not available. [1]Estimates discontinued in 2019.

Maple Syrup Price and Value – Selected States and United States: 2017-2019[1]

State	Average price per gallon			Value of production		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
	(dollars)			(1,000 dollars)		
Connecticut	62.20	76.00	(NA)	1,120	1,368	(NA)
Indiana	50.20	50.20	(NA)	703	904	(NA)
Maine	33.70	40.20	28.20	24,096	21,668	14,664
Massachusetts	50.20	53.00	(NA)	4,217	3,816	(NA)
Michigan	51.20	38.90	48.60	7,680	6,419	9,477
Minnesota	66.60	61.60	(NA)	1,132	801	(NA)
New Hampshire	43.50	56.10	45.30	6,960	9,144	6,704
New York	39.00	32.40	32.20	29,640	26,114	26,404
Ohio	38.50	45.40	(NA)	3,234	4,086	(NA)
Pennsylvania	34.30	39.00	35.00	5,660	5,538	5,495
Vermont	27.00	28.00	28.00	54,000	54,320	57,960
West Virginia	36.70	44.60	(NA)	404	357	(NA)
Wisconsin	**31.40**	**32.40**	**32.50**	**6,500**	**7,290**	**8,775**
United States	33.10	33.80	31.00	145,346	141,825	129,479

(NA) Not available. [1]Price and value for 2019 will be published in the *Crop Production* report released in June 2020.

Maple Syrup: Price by Type of Sale and Size of Container, States: 2018 and 2019

Type and State	Gallon		1/2 Gallon		Quart		Pint		1/2 Pint	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(dollars)									
Retail										
Connecticut	62.90	(D)	38.00	(D)	21.40	(D)	13.40	(D)	8.60	(D)
Indiana	41.00	(D)	25.50	(D)	14.60	(D)	8.40	(D)	6.20	(D)
Maine	53.40	50.40	31.40	30.50	17.50	17.50	10.60	10.50	6.60	6.60
Massachusetts	53.80	(D)	32.60	(D)	19.50	(D)	12.60	(D)	9.00	(D)
Michigan	46.70	48.40	26.50	26.60	15.80	14.60	10.50	11.60	7.10	8.50
Minnesota	50.30	(D)	31.50	(D)	16.90	(D)	8.30	(D)	7.00	(D)
New Hampshire	57.00	52.00	32.80	31.70	19.50	18.80	10.70	11.30	6.75	6.40
New York	42.60	47.30	25.90	27.20	15.90	15.90	9.50	9.60	5.80	6.80
Ohio	45.60	(D)	25.20	(D)	15.50	(D)	9.50	(D)	7.10	(D)
Pennsylvania	47.20	45.50	26.80	25.00	16.00	15.00	9.40	8.85	5.60	5.85
Vermont	45.30	44.50	26.40	26.70	16.70	17.90	9.70	10.60	7.50	7.00
West Virginia	53.90	(D)	29.10	(D)	16.30	(D)	10.70	(D)	6.30	(D)
Wisconsin	**43.20**	**42.80**	**24.90**	**27.00**	**14.70**	**14.00**	**8.50**	**8.00**	**4.80**	**5.80**
Wholesale										
Connecticut	53.60	(D)	(D)	(D)	16.60	(D)	8.00	(D)	5.40	(D)
Indiana	32.80	(D)	21.80	(D)	11.30	(D)	5.30	(D)	(S)	(D)
Maine	43.60	47.50	19.70	24.90	13.00	13.90	7.90	7.40	4.75	4.65
Massachusetts	45.20	(D)	25.50	(D)	14.80	(D)	8.10	(D)	5.30	(D)
Michigan	43.60	37.90	23.10	20.10	12.60	12.20	7.50	8.80	5.00	6.60
Minnesota	45.00	(D)	(S)	(D)	18.80	(D)	10.40	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Hampshire	47.30	42.90	26.40	27.10	15.20	14.80	8.25	8.30	6.15	4.85
New York	37.40	42.40	23.60	21.90	12.80	12.60	7.90	7.30	4.70	4.30
Ohio	40.20	(D)	21.40	(D)	13.10	(D)	7.40	(D)	4.40	(D)
Pennsylvania	29.80	39.10	19.10	21.90	13.00	12.60	7.70	7.25	4.00	4.65
Vermont	38.80	39.90	22.80	23.30	13.50	14.00	7.60	7.20	4.40	4.50
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	24.60	(D)	14.80	(D)	9.00	(D)	5.00	(D)
Wisconsin	**43.80**	**42.60**	**23.70**	**22.60**	**12.90**	**13.30**	**6.80**	**7.20**	**5.60**	**4.50**

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (S) Insufficient number of reports to establish an estimate.

Prices Received by Farmers

The April 2020 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Wisconsin was $3.10 per bushel. This was down 41 cents from March and 36 cents below the previous April.

The April **soybean** price, at $8.13 per bushel, was down 17 cents from March and down 10 cents from the previous April.

The April **oat** price was $3.59 per bushel, 33 cents above the March price and 19 cents above April 2019.

All hay prices in Wisconsin averaged $163.00 per ton in April, down $11.00 from March and $23.00 below April 2019. The **alfalfa hay** price averaged $171.00 per ton in April, down $9.00 from March and $22.00 below the previous April. The **other hay** price averaged $136.00, down $17.00 from March and $29.00 below the April 2019 price.

Prices Received by Farmers

WISCONSIN	April 2019	March 2020	April 2020
	(dollars)		
Corn ..... bu	3.46	3.51	3.10
Hay, all baled ..... ton	186.00	174.00	163.00
Alfalfa ..... ton	193.00	180.00	171.00
Other ..... ton	165.00	153.00	136.00
Oats ..... bu	3.40	3.26	3.59
Soybeans ..... bu	8.23	8.30	8.13
UNITED STATES	April 2019	March 2020	April 2020
	(dollars)		
Corn ..... bu	3.53	3.68	3.29
Hay, all baled ..... ton	184.00	158.00	161.00
Alfalfa ..... ton	198.00	175.00	181.00
Other ..... ton	158.00	130.00	124.00
Oats ..... bu	3.01	2.96	3.10
Soybeans ..... bu	8.28	8.46	8.35
Calves ..... cwt	174.00	160.00	151.00
Cattle, all beef ..... cwt	125.00	113.00	108.00
Cows[1] ..... cwt	61.30	67.50	64.00
Steers & Heifers ..... cwt	128.00	114.00	111.00
Hogs, all ..... cwt	59.40	47.70	42.30
Barrows & Gilts ..... cwt	59.70	48.30	42.60
Sows ..... cwt	50.60	31.50	36.20
Eggs (market)[2] ..... doz	0.373	1.58	0.797

[1] Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. [2] Mid-month price. Also referred to as table eggs.

March Milk Prices

The Wisconsin all milk price for April 2020 was $14.00 per hundredweight (cwt). This was $4.10 lower than last month's price and $3.90 lower than last April's price.

The U.S. all milk price for April was $14.40 per cwt, 40 cents higher than Wisconsin's price but $3.60 lower than last month's U.S. price. All of the 24 major milk producing states had a lower price when compared with March. Iowa had the largest decrease in price, down $5.00 per cwt. from March, but New Mexico had the lowest price, at $11.90 per cwt.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange* (CME) 40-pound block cheese price closed at $2.2300 per pound on May 29, while barrels were $2.0225 per pound. The CME butter price was $1.6600 per pound.

For the week ending May 23, 2020, the Agricultural Marketing Service* U.S. weekly 40-pound block cheese price averaged $1.3748 per pound, and 500 pound barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged $1.3762 per pound. The U.S. butter price was $1.4191 per pound.

Milk Prices[1]

Selected states	April 2019		March 2020		April 2020	
	Price per cwt.	Fat test	Price per cwt.	Fat test	Price per cwt.	Fat test
	(dollars)	*(percent)*	*(dollars)*	*(percent)*	*(dollars)*	*(percent)*
Milk for all uses						
California	17.40	3.84	17.60	3.89	14.20	3.91
Idaho	17.20	3.94	17.30	4.04	14.70	4.06
Iowa	18.20	3.93	19.00	4.06	14.00	4.01
Michigan	16.40	3.84	16.60	3.85	13.00	3.83
Minnesota	18.30	4.03	18.20	4.07	14.00	4.05
New Mexico	16.10	3.71	15.40	3.84	11.90	3.75
New York	18.20	3.90	18.50	3.95	14.70	3.94
Pennsylvania	18.40	3.84	18.90	3.96	15.30	3.93
Texas	18.10	4.12	18.30	4.25	14.70	4.19
Wisconsin	**17.90**	**3.89**	**18.10**	**3.94**	**14.00**	**3.91**
United States	17.70	3.89	18.00	3.96	14.40	3.94

[1]Before deduction for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

The *Wisconsin Farm Reporter* has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

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