



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA TO MEASURE MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION

Last year, 831,000 gallons of maple syrup were produced in New England, 22 percent above the previous year's production. Nationwide, there was a 4 percent increase in production. Combined, the New England states were responsible for 68 percent of the national production, and the top three producing states were Vermont, Maine and New York.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service, 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 (except Rhode Island). These figures are based on an annual survey of maple producers. This program is supported by the North American Maple Syrup Council and is the basis for many decisions made by producers throughout the region. (Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are also in this national program.)

Maple producers are asked to complete the survey because they are the best source of information about production and prices. Response to the Maple Syrup Inquiry is voluntary; however, there is no other way to accurately measure the current year's production or previous year's price. Cooperation from maple syrup producers is necessary for an accurate measurement of the maple industry in New England and nationwide. In Vermont, producers with 100 to 2,999 taps are sampled, and operations having 3,000 and above taps are all mailed a questionnaire. The other four New England states in the program are treated like a census, where any known producer, with more than 100 taps, is mailed a questionnaire.

Every effort is made to contact all maple syrup producers selected for this very important project to ensure that published statistics are timely and accurate. About 2,500 questionnaires are mailed to New England producers in April, and those who do not return their forms by May will be contacted by telephone from the Concord office and asked to help with the survey.

Individual producer reports are kept strictly confidential and used only with other reports for statistical purposes. NASS does not give any individual information to other agencies or persons, as it is exempt from data requests based on the Freedom of Information Act.

The national survey results will be available in the **Crop Production** report from Washington, D.C. at 8:30 a.m. on June 12, 2001. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. The New England field office will publish the statistics on June 15, 2001 in a special **Maple Syrup** release, also available on the Internet. This release contains the same information as the national report, and also includes charts, graphs and comments from producers.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached by phone at 1-800-642-9571 or through E-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free E-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

For More Information Contact: Angie Coate or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571.