Maple Syrup 2011

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

NEW ENGLAND Agricultural Statistics
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A special "Thank you" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing the annual Maple Syrup survey during April and May.

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION UP 43 PERCENT NATIONWIDE

UNITED STATES: United States maple syrup production in 2011 totaled 2.79 million gallons, up 43 percent from the revised 2010 total. The number of taps is estimated at 9.58 million, 3 percent above the 2010 revised total of 9.26 million. Yield per tap is estimated at 0.292 gallons, up 38 percent from the previous season's revised yield.

All States showed an increase in production from the previous year. Vermont led all States in production with 1.14 million gallons, an increase of 28 percent from 2010 and the highest level since 1945. Production in New York, at 564,000 gallons, secured New York's place as the second in the nation. Maine's sugar makers produced 360,000 gallons of syrup in 2011 an increase of 14 percent from 2010. In New Hampshire, production is estimated at 120,000 gallons, highest in over 85 years. Connecticut and Massachusetts produced a combined total of 79,000 gallons, a significant increase of 108 percent from 2010. Pennsylvania production was a record high with an increase of 137 percent. Ohio producers reported excellent sap collecting conditions which produced the highest yield per tap that the State has seen since this statistic was first measured in 2001.

Temperatures were reported as favorable for optimal sap flow in all States. On average, the season lasted 32 days compared with 23 days last year. In most States, the season started later than last year. The earliest sap flow reported was January 10 in New York. The latest sap flow reported was May 7 in Wisconsin. Sugar content of the sap for 2011 was up from the previous year. On average, approximately 43 gallons of sap were required to produce 1 gallon of syrup. This compares with 46 gallons in 2010 and 43 gallons in 2009. The majority of the syrup produced in each State this year was medium to dark in color with the exception of Maine and Vermont where syrup was mostly light to medium amber.

The 2010 United States price per gallon averaged $37.50, down $0.40 from the revised 2009 price of $37.90. The United States value of production, at $73.6 million for 2010, was down 19 percent from the revised previous season. Value of production was down in all States.

New England (excluding Rhode Island): New England's maple syrup production in 2011 totaled 1.70 million gallons, up 28 percent from 2010's revised total of 1.33 million gallons. Vermont remained the top maple State in New England and the Nation, producing 41 percent of the Nation's maple syrup. Taps in New England totaled 5.51 million, up 3 percent from last year's revised total and accounted for 57 percent of the Nation's maple taps.

The 2011 maple season was rated mostly favorable in temperature, causing production to rise in all five New England States, particularly in southern States. Temperatures were reported as 2 percent "too warm" in 2011, compared to 81 percent "too warm" last year. Excessive snow depth proved to be an obstacle to many sugar producers at the start of the season but helped extend the length of the season across New England. Some sugar makers in Maine reported collecting sap as late as the first week of May. In addition, temperatures were warm enough during the day and below freezing during nighttime, resulting in consistent and steady sap flows. Connecticut and Massachusetts producers, those hit hardest by the unseasonably warm spring of 2010, reported significant improvements in yields compared to the previous year. Producers relying on gravity taps welcomed the cooler temperatures, and also reported significant increases in production. Many of these sugar makers claimed 2011 as a record year in production.

Earliest dates for sap collection for each State were as follows: Vermont - February 1, New Hampshire - February 14, Connecticut - February 2, Massachusetts - January 31, and Maine - February 12. Average start dates ranged from February 24 to March 10. Latest closing dates for sap collection for each State were as follows: New Hampshire – April 30, Connecticut – April 21, Massachusetts – April 27, Vermont – April 30, and Maine – May 6. Average finish dates ranged from March 29 to April 14. The sugar content of the sap was below average in New England with the exception of Maine, requiring approximately 42 to 44 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. In contrast, only 34 gallons of sap were required to produce 1 gallon of syrup in Maine. Over 80 percent of the syrup produced was in the light and medium amber categories; however New Hampshire and southern New England States produced more dark amber than light.

2010 PRICES AND SALES: Across New England, the average equivalent price per gallon for 2010 maple syrup varied widely depending on the percentage sold retail, wholesale, or bulk. The 2010 all sales equivalent price per gallon in Connecticut averaged $70.00, up $6.00; Maine averaged $33.50, up $0.60; Massachusetts averaged $56.50, up $2.90; New Hampshire averaged $55.40, up $1.90; and Vermont averaged $34.00, down $1.10. Vermont and Maine's prices continue to be lower than the other States because of the high percentage of bulk sales. New England's 2010 gallon equivalent price across all types of sales averaged $36.02, a decrease of $0.50 from the 2009 price of $36.52.

MAPLE SYRUP: Taps, Yield, and Production, 2009 – 2011

State	Taps			Yield per Tap			Production		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
	1,000 Taps			Gallons			1,000 Gallons		
Connecticut	71	75	71	0.183	0.120	0.239	13	9	17
Maine	1,470	*1,470	1,470	0.269	*0.214	0.245	395	*315	360
Massachusetts	230	250	245	0.200	0.116	0.253	46	29	62
New Hampshire	385	420	420	0.244	0.207	0.286	94	87	120
Vermont	3,030	*3,150	3,300	0.304	*0.283	0.345	920	890	1,140
NEW ENGLAND [1]	**5,186**	***5,365**	**5,506**	**0.283**	***0.248**	**0.309**	**1,468**	***1,330**	**1,699**
Michigan	450	490	495	0.256	0.167	0.248	115	82	123
New York	1,830	1,903	2,011	0.240	0.164	0.280	439	312	564
Ohio	375	385	405	0.240	0.169	0.309	90	65	125
Pennsylvania	464	465	503	0.198	0.116	0.254	92	54	128
Wisconsin	670	650	660	0.299	0.180	0.235	200	117	155
UNITED STATES	**8,975**	**9,258**	**9,580**	**0.268**	***0.212**	**0.292**	**2,404**	***1,960**	**2,794**
New Brunswick [2]							464	371	
Nova Scotia [2]							23	34	
Ontario [2]							501	346	
Quebec [2]							*9,787	7,881	
CANADA [2 3]							***10,775**	8,634	

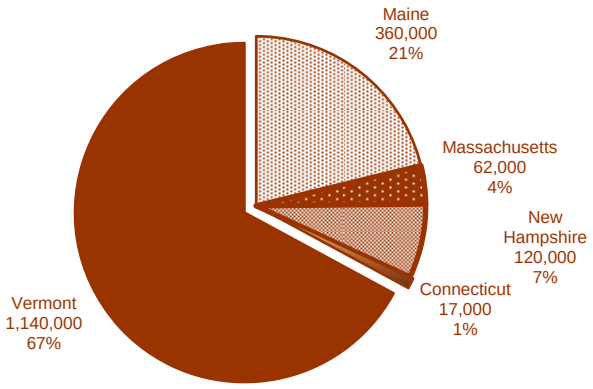
* Revised.
[1] New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.
[2] Canadian data incomplete; current figures were unavailable at the time of publication. Canadian imperial gallons were converted to United States gallons (1 imperial gallon equals 1.2021778 United States gallons).
[3] Data may not add due to rounding.
SOURCE: United States – ***Crop Production,*** June 9, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.
Canada, Production – ***2010 Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products,*** Statistics Canada

MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price, and Value, 2008 – 2010

State	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales [1]			Value of Production		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
	1,000 Gallons			United States Dollars			United States 1,000 Dollars		
Connecticut	19	13	9	62.30	*64.00	70.00	1,184	*832	630
Maine	240	395	*315	36.80	32.90	33.50	8,832	12,996	10,553
Massachusetts	65	46	29	46.50	53.60	56.50	3,023	2,466	1,639
New Hampshire	95	94	87	53.80	*53.50	55.40	5,111	*5,029	4,820
Vermont	710	920	890	39.50	35.10	34.00	28,045	32,292	30,260
NEW ENGLAND [2]	**1,129**	**1,468**	***1,330**	**40.92**	***36.52**	**36.02**	**46,195**	***53,615**	**47,902**
Michigan	105	115	82	41.00	45.00	45.00	4,305	5,175	3,690
New York	328	439	312	42.40	40.60	39.40	13,907	17,823	12,293
Ohio	100	90	65	37.90	40.30	42.70	3,790	3,627	2,776
Pennsylvania	100	92	54	38.30	38.10	42.00	3,830	3,505	2,268
Wisconsin	150	200	117	39.10	36.70	39.50	5,865	7,340	4,622
UNITED STATES	**1,912**	**2,404**	***1,960**	**40.70**	***37.90**	**37.50**	**77,892**	***91,085**	**73,551**
New Brunswick [3]	203	464	371	42.94	41.42	47.42	8,717	19,220	17,594
Nova Scotia [3]	25	23	34	36.20	*39.09	45.44	905	*899	1,545
Ontario [3]	315	501	346	48.55	44.26	52.50	15,293	22,172	18,166
Quebec [3]	5,337	*9,787	7,881	34.58	*26.93	28.94	184,572	*263,599	228,099
CANADA [3]	**5,879**	***10,775**	8,634	**35.63**	***28.39**	**30.74**	**209,485**	***305,891**	**265,404**

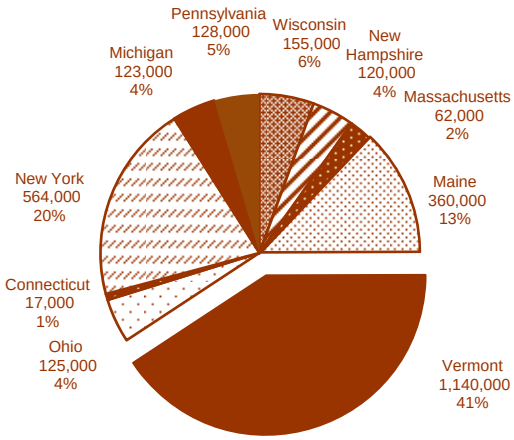
* Revised
[1] Average gallon equivalent price in United States dollars is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales. This price is lower for States, such as Maine and Vermont, with more bulk sales. The average gallon equivalent price is not the average retail price paid for a gallon of syrup. See page 4 for retail gallon average prices.
[2] New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, and VT.
[3] Canadian dollars to United States dollars exchange rates were valued at or near the closest date to July 1 for each year. Exchange rates 0.9886 for 2008, 0.8646 for 2009, and 0.9449 for 2010. Canadian imperial gallons were converted to United States gallons (1 imperial gallon equals 1.2021778 United States gallons).
SOURCE: United States – ***Crop Production,*** June 9, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.
Canada, Production – ***2010 Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products,*** Statistics Canada

New England Maple Syrup Production, 2011
Gallons and Percent by State



New England Maple
Total = 1,699,000 gallons.

United State Maple Production 2011
Gallons and Percent by State



United States Maple
Total = 2,794,000 gallons.

SOURCE: ***Crop Production,*** June 9, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 2009 – 2010

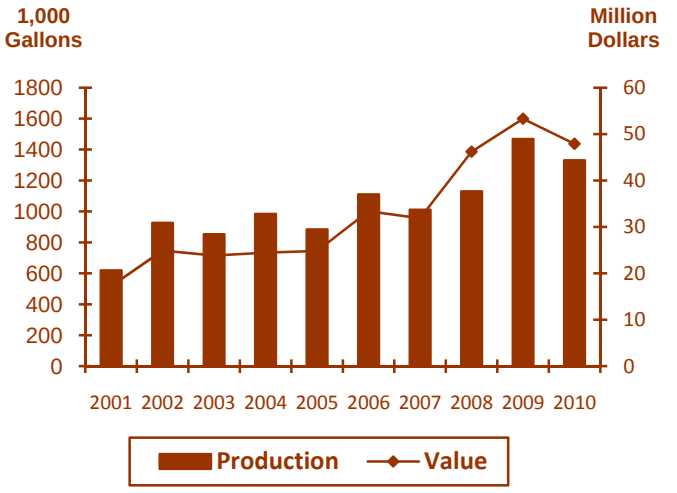
Type of Sale	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Retail	*55	65	1	1	65	55	55	45	10	15
Wholesale	*30	20	*7	1	25	35	*30	40	5	5
Bulk	*15	15	92	98	10	10	*15	15	85	80

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 2009 – 2010

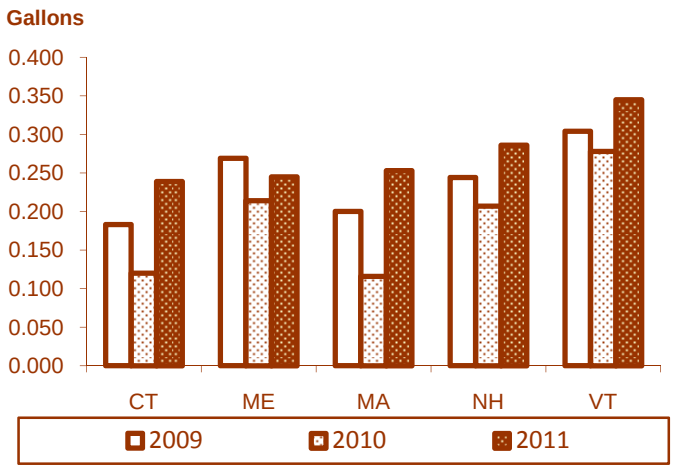
Type of Sale	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Retail	58	53	39	28	47	55	81	69	30	39
Wholesale	17	26	15	15	18	20	4	9	14	13
Bulk	25	21	46	57	35	25	15	22	56	48

* Revised.
SOURCE: ***Crop Production,*** June 9, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Maple Syrup Production and Value
New England, 2001 – 2010



Maple Syrup Yield per Tap
New England, 2009 – 2011



MAPLE SYRUP: Retail and Wholesale Prices by Size of Containers, 2008 – 2010

State and Year	Retail								Wholesale							
	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz. (100 ml)	8.5 oz. (250 ml)	12 oz. (355 ml)	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz. (100 ml)	8.5 oz. (250 ml)	12 oz. (355 ml)
	Dollars								Dollars							
Connecticut																
2008	54.10	27.60	16.80	11.00	7.00	3.50	8.65	10.90	46.80	27.70	14.60	8.90	5.75	2.40	(D)	(D)
2009	57.00	31.70	18.30	11.50	7.55	4.85	10.00	(D)	46.30	23.60	13.20	8.65	5.55	(D)	(D)	(D)
2010	62.00	31.70	19.60	11.80	7.70	4.50	9.20	(D)	59.00	29.50	14.40	10.70	4.90	4.10	(D)	(D)
Maine																
2008	45.20	25.20	14.20	8.30	5.50	2.95	8.85	12.30	38.40	21.80	11.90	6.90	4.30	3.50	7.00	(D)
2009	52.50	28.10	15.10	9.45	7.20	3.50	7.25	9.85	40.50	25.00	13.00	7.00	4.50	(D)	(D)	(D)
2010	50.10	28.40	15.40	9.55	5.90	4.45	9.40	(D)	42.30	26.70	13.80	7.00	4.15	(D)	6.90	(D)
Massachusetts																
2008	48.00	23.20	14.00	8.75	6.05	4.05	8.45	9.65	42.20	24.20	13.00	7.40	4.95	(D)	(D)	(D)
2009	42.50	27.80	16.60	11.40	7.75	4.70	9.30	10.10	41.90	25.20	14.00	7.45	4.90	2.35	(D)	(D)
2010	53.00	26.80	17.20	10.00	6.50	3.40	(D)	9.50	44.00	24.70	14.30	8.00	5.10	2.30	(D)	7.60
New Hampshire																
2008	44.30	25.30	14.60	8.65	5.10	3.45	7.20	8.25	38.60	22.90	13.40	7.70	4.15	2.05	(D)	(D)
2009	49.30	28.00	16.40	9.85	6.35	3.50	9.25	8.80	40.60	21.60	11.40	6.65	3.95	2.85	(D)	(D)
2010	49.00	28.10	17.10	9.80	6.50	3.80	9.10	(D)	45.70	25.30	13.00	7.10	3.80	2.30	3.60	(D)
Vermont																
2008	40.60	24.10	15.00	9.65	6.35	4.20	7.35	11.30	38.10	21.70	12.60	7.45	5.10	2.95	6.00	6.10
2009	43.90	25.50	15.50	9.20	6.00	3.85	8.60	12.60	38.50	23.20	13.40	7.80	4.80	2.25	6.45	6.15
2010	43.30	25.50	15.70	9.70	6.20	3.80	7.50	12.00	37.00	23.10	12.80	7.60	4.60	3.50	6.20	(D)
Michigan [1]																
2008	36.30	20.90	12.00	7.40	5.00				30.70	18.00	10.10	6.10	3.70			
2009	42.70	21.80	12.70	7.80	5.60				35.40	21.00	11.20	6.30	4.20			
2010	42.00	22.60	12.90	7.80	5.10				34.10	21.90	12.40	7.60	4.50			
New York [1]																
2008	38.10	22.90	14.00	8.85	5.85				35.90	20.80	11.60	6.50	4.00			
2009	40.10	24.10	14.90	9.40	6.25				38.30	22.30	12.30	7.00	4.25			
2010	42.80	24.00	15.00	8.90	5.35				40.70	22.20	12.20	7.30	4.20			
Ohio [1]																
2008	33.60	20.20	12.40	7.80	5.35				32.50	18.00	11.20	6.70	4.80			
2009	37.70	22.10	13.40	8.35	5.55				35.90	21.20	12.60	7.55	5.25			
2010	40.50	23.00	13.90	8.50	5.95				34.30	21.20	11.30	7.55	4.05			
Pennsylvania [1]																
2008	37.30	22.00	13.00	7.15	4.40				34.60	17.80	10.20	5.95	4.40			
2009	38.00	21.70	12.70	7.90	4.90				32.20	17.90	10.20	6.20	4.10			
2010	39.70	22.70	13.70	8.25	5.45				40.30	19.20	11.60	6.55	4.05			
Wisconsin [1]																
2008	37.70	21.50	10.70	7.40	5.20				35.50	20.80	11.70	6.50	4.20			
2009	37.30	21.10	11.30	7.30	4.70				37.30	23.80	11.80	7.20	4.00			
2010	38.10	21.50	11.80	7.50	5.70				37.30	21.60	12.00	7.20	4.60			

(D) Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
[1] Retail and wholesale price for 3.4 oz. (100 ml), 8.5 oz. (250 ml), and 12 oz. (355 ml) container sizes are only available in New England States.
SOURCE: ***Crop Production,*** June 9, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Bulk Prices by Grade and All Sales Gallon Equivalent Prices, 2008 – 2010

State and Year	Bulk					All Sales Per Gallon Equivalent Price [1]
	Grade A			Grades B and C	All Grades	
	Light Amber	Medium Amber	Dark Amber			
	Dollars per Pound [2]					Dollars
Connecticut						
2008	(D)	(D)	3.05	2.95	2.90	62.30
2009	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	*64.00
2010	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	70.00
Maine						
2008	3.35	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	36.80
2009	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.65	2.85	32.90
2010	3.00	3.00	2.90	2.70	3.00	33.50
Massachusetts						
2008	3.40	3.05	3.00	2.75	3.15	46.50
2009	2.85	2.80	2.70	2.50	2.65	53.60
2010	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	2.55	56.50
New Hampshire						
2008	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.20	53.80
2009	2.80	2.95	2.80	2.50	2.75	*53.50
2010	2.90	2.90	2.75	2.40	2.65	55.40
Vermont						
2008	3.20	3.05	3.05	2.85	3.05	39.50
2009	3.00	2.95	2.90	2.65	2.90	35.10
2010	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.35	2.65	34.00
Michigan [3]						
2008					3.10	41.00
2009					2.80	45.00
2010					2.80	45.00
New York [3]						
2008					3.15	42.40
2009					2.73	40.60
2010					2.71	39.40
Ohio [3]						
2008					2.80	37.90
2009					2.70	40.30
2010					255	42.70
Pennsylvania [3]						
2008					2.45	38.30
2009					2.70	38.10
2010					2.45	42.00
Wisconsin [3]						
2008					2.75	39.10
2009					2.60	36.70
2010					2.60	39.50

* Revised.
(D) Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
[1] Average gallon equivalent price was a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales.
[2] For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.02 pounds per gallon.
[3] Grades A, B, and C price per pound is only available in the New England States.
SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, June 9, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Sugar Maker Comments by County

CONNECTICUT – Fairfield: Deep snow and heavy rains made season difficult. Weather was perfect. Heavy flows during the first week of March. Last 10 days of March were the best of season. **Hartford:** Three feet of snow made for a late start. Weather was great despite several feet of snow. When melted, the sap ran good. Syrup came out great tasting, even in April. **Litchfield:** Deep snow depth of over 3 feet but good sap flow – sporadic at times but generally even. Great season. Used snowshoes for only 2nd time in 25 years. Significant improvement from both 2009 and 2010. Season started slow and cold, then picked up in March. Temperatures seldom got too warm, though the season seemed to start late. Sap was collected for only one week in February. Towards the end, four warm days in a row drastically stopped the season. **Middlesex:** It was a perfect season. **New Haven:** There was too much snow on the ground to get to trees early in the season. It was tough to get started but best year yet. This was a fabulous year. **New London:** A great season after last year. The snow cover and the temperature fluctuations helped a lot. **Tolland:** Too much snow. Weather much better than last year but some cold days hampered flow. Weather sounded good on forecast but each day generally didn't warm up until the afternoon. **Windham:** Too much snow to get out to set taps. Extreme snow conditions were a challenge throughout the season. Conditions were very good. Season was a little later than last year. The barometric pressure was a big factor along with ideal temperatures. Gravity tubing did very well. Sugar content consistently high.

MAINE – Androscoggin: Best year ever in 20 years. **Aroostook:** Too cold early until about mid-March. Best time about March 22-30. Syrup was really dark at the beginning of the season and then it lightened up to more normal coloring. Had ten days of really good sap runs. Sugar content was good overall. Not a lot of big sap runs. A longer dragged out season than normal. **Cumberland:** One of the best years ever. Started late due to snow pack. Once the sap began to flow in early March, it continued steadily throughout the month. A week with no flow: too warm. **Franklin:** Best year ever. Cooperative temperatures this year; just cold enough in March. Sap was gathered with very low temperatures this year. Many runs with temperatures between 36F to 39F. Poor season at high elevation as it was too cold for production. Spring was slow in coming this year with snow on ground in early May. Syrup grade was better than 2010 with low percentage of commercial syrup produced. **Hancock:** The snow was very deep this year. The sap ran good on trees near the road, but not in the woods at the beginning of the season. **Kennebec:** Best season on record. More sap from fewer taps. Lots of snow and very cold to keep sap flowing resulted in a much better year than 2010. Cold nights and warm days made for a perfect season. Temperatures were favorable. Steady, very consistent runs. Much better year than 2010. Excellent flavor all season; syrup was very sweet. **Knox:** Slow to start but happy with overall volume. Made more dark syrup than normal. **Lincoln:** The snow was very deep this year. **Oxford:** Good continuous season. Perfect weather, later than usual. Runs were steady all season long. Season started later than usual due cold weather and lots of snow. Weather stayed cold into April and snow was on the ground until 1st of May. Very light and very sweet maple syrup. Last week of season went from medium amber to grade B in about three days. **Penobscot:** Exceptional year for maple syrup production. Steady runs resulting in lots of sap but not sweet. A normal season for a change. **Piscataquis:** At 1300 ft. elevation, when the weather was cold, it was too cold and when the weather was hot, it was too hot. Old fashioned winter with snow lasting into May. **Sagadahoc:** The freeze-thaw process was more erratic this year. **Somerset:** Best year ever. Perfect season with freezing nights and perfect running days. Cold season with a lot of snow. Trees ran almost every day, even in wind. Very long season with a week and a half too cold to run. Many days the wind was enough for it not to run. **Waldo:** The weather was good but too windy. Best season since 2003. Taps had to be pulled after amount of sap exceeded capacity. **Washington:** Best season ever. Deep snow cover well into March with favorable temperatures into April. Syrup was generally darker than usual. **York:** It was a cool prolonged season; we have never boiled more than 18 times. Much better conditions than 2010. Weather conditions and temperatures in southern Maine were ideal for syrup making. Sugar content reached 4% and maintained a solid 3% for the remainder of the season. Sap flow was plentiful and crystal clear which made the quality of the syrup that much better. Good snow cover and a lot of sunny days, so sap flowed heavily for much of the season.

MASSACHUSETTS – Berkshire: Good year. Season started cold and was late. Deep snow prevented some tapping of trees. Only one day above 50F throughout the whole season. Syrup stayed light all season long. **Franklin:** Best season so far. Cool and not too warm. Depth of snow prevented some taps from being set. When the snow finally melted, sap flowed well. Taps had to be moved to high ground due to lack of freezing. Higher elevations with ideal sugaring weather helped make best season in 34 years. It got into the sixties for 2 or 3 days early in the season and gave sap flow a setback. Very unpredictable during last week of sugaring. Cold, windy, but good flow. Flavor overall was excellent. **Hampden:** A good but not a very good year. The weather was too cold and winds were not in the right direction. Cool down of nighttime temperatures at end of season boosted overall totals. **Hampshire:** Excellent season. Had to use snow shoes. Best year for about 20 years. Many days sap ran with temperatures in mid-30s. Slow going and too cold for 4 days in middle of March. Most runs started around noon and ended at 4 pm. Quality of syrup exceptional with flavor rated as outstanding. **Middlesex:** A good year with erratic temperatures. **Suffolk:** Very deep snow. Some days above freezing made darker syrup. **Worcester:** Long and good season. Very favorable weather conditions. Winter too tough. Too much snow.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Belknap: Very good season overall - best in years. Cold and a good snow cover prolonged the season. Good sugar content and syrup of great quality with lots of medium amber. Season stopped rather quickly. **Carroll:** Very nice year, certainly best year since 2004 if not better. No big runs but steady right through the season. Erratic season: poor start, very strong runs late March, then abrupt end in early April. Excellent quality **Cheshire:** Very good, long season. Very deep snow to start. No runs until 2nd week in March. Early warm spell, then no fluctuations in temperature to promote good runs. Sugarbush exposed to the sun flowed very well while taps that are in the shade did not flow as well. End of season freezes not deep enough. Excellent quality and flavor. **Coos:** Season started out slow

then picked up by the end of March and first of April. Combination of favorable weather, good snow cover, vacuum, and check valve spot gave us a record season. **Grafton:** Snow was too deep to sugar this year; couldn't move through it. First time to finish sugaring with snow in the bush. The season started later this year due to cold weather. However, once the sap cut loose it kept coming. Sugar content was better than usual. Flow was up and down all season, about an average year volume-wise. **Hillsborough:** Late season but a real good one. February 14 – March 5 was too cold for sap flow. Too cold at night – not warm enough until noon for sap to run. Middle to end of March very good. The perfect weather conditions were persistent throughout the season. **Merrimack:** It was a year for the record books with near perfect weather. Deep snow made tapping hard. Season started late and ended late. Best running conditions in 30 years. March runs were the best experienced since the mid-1980s. Very consistent favorable conditions with good cold nights. All grades had great flavor this year. **Rockingham:** Three days of freeze, 2-3 day warm spell, never had a consistent long run. There was never a consistent long run. More grade B syrup was made than a normal year. **Strafford:** Perfect weather for most of March and early April. A very nice, long season. March 18 looked like the season was done as a 50F day followed by 60F day caused bacteria to slime the bottom of buckets. Cold air returned for 10 days, making an average season into a really good one. **Sullivan:** Late, but perfect weather when it started for those who still depend on gravity. Longest season since 1978. Deep powder snow led to snowshoes and slower tapping. Cold, wet, miserable weather gathering, but good runs all the time. Ice storm damage prevented good vacuum for the first week of the season. Temperature was too cold from March 20 to March 30, otherwise what was a good season would have been an excellent one. Consistently very good flavor, even with the darkest syrup. Low sugar content.

VERMONT – **Addison:** An exceptional year with an almost continuous flow of sap. After a rather cold, slow start, we had much better weather which helped to melt the snow and let the sap run. A late start with a 10-day freeze, followed by good sap flow in April resulted in our best year ever. Good runs made very flavorful light syrup. **Bennington:** Good year with very good syrup color. The majority of our season's crop was made in about 2-3 weeks. Early on, conditions were too cold, then the sap ran well, and it shut off before bud break. **Caledonia:** Late start and with long stretches without freezes. Season was more normal than 2010 but a little too cold at our location. North facing bush affected by cold temperatures and winds while south-facing bush did better than 2010. After mid-March, a cold snap changed syrup from dark to fancy. Sap averaged 3.2% sugar and was frozen in buckets for 10 days between March 20 to March 30. Sap ran hard after the freeze and ended up with excellent color. **Chittenden:** Normal weather. Warm periods were hotter than desired but snowpack moderated impact. Violent windstorms during 12/1/10 caused severe damage to pipelines and tappable trees while also resulting in numerous leaning trees collapsing from snow load. Lost a valuable week to cold weather during last week in March. Lots of overcast days with rain and/or snow with no good days of freezing nights and warm days. Short and sweet season with excellent syrup both in flavor and color. **Essex:** Long season. Weather was a little too cold. Exceptional quality of syrup. **Franklin:** Too much snow for tractor making us use four-wheeler to gather sap and to make roads. Windstorm took down over half of the lines and many others were covered over in deep snow. It appears to have been a much better than average season for everyone. It started later than normal but went on for over a month which is much longer than normal. Loss of one week because it was cold day and night. Borderline temperatures at my elevation started season slow but deep snow and warmth helped season at the end. Syrup was of good flavor but color was darker than normal. **Lamoille:** Late start but with very late finish resulted in one of the best seasons ever in both production and quality. It was hard getting set up due to lots of damage from deep snow. Trees with southern exposure ran well despite having a lot of snow. The cold spell mid-season was a setback. **Orange:** Perfect weather except it only got up to 35-37F, then turned too warm. Weather was poor in March and late April. A cold snap between March 22 and March 31 reduced production. Sap was excellent in sugar this year. **Orleans:** Typical sugaring weather with hot and cold spells. It never got really warm so it sustained the season. Cold early so 80% of crop was light syrup. Had few warm days in March, lots of snow, and a very sharp cold spell in mid-season. A normal season as timing goes with syrup being mostly fancy. **Rutland:** Pretty good year. Cold and snowy season. There was too much snow in many places to tap. It never got too warm but didn't get cold enough. Good flow from south-facing woods. **Washington:** Excellent season. Cooler days on average but length of season made up for this. The weather began favorable but it did go into a freeze-down for about 7 days mid-season. The quality and flavor is delicious, mostly dark A or medium amber was made. **Windham:** Slow to get started but it turned into a good year. There were no large runs but a steady flow. If it had been any colder, excellent production would have gone to poor production. Dark syrup produced but with good sweet flavor. **Windsor:** Snow was too deep. It would have been a better season but on the 1st Sunday in March we had a devastating ice storm. The season started on time but was interrupted by cold weather in mid-March. There were prolonged cold spells, then extended warm spell closed season prior to late run. Elevation was the determining factor in temperature issue as it warmed up too late in day for good run before temperature fell back again at night. There was a really favorable stretch of weather from 2nd week of March through 2nd week of April. Very low sugar content. Excellent quality, color mix and flavor. We made good balance of all grades of syrup.

This is a summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from national Crop Production release nationwide reports issued by USDA's **National Agricultural Statistics Service,** June 9, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. The New England Field Office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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