MAPLE SYRUP 2006

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NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics
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A Special "THANK YOU goes to New England producers and buyers who have helped us by completing the annual Maple Syrup survey during April and May.

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION UP 17 PERCENT NATIONWIDE

UNITED STATES: The 2006 U.S. maple syrup production totaled 1.45 million gallons, up 17 percent from 2005. The number of taps is estimated at 7.26 million, up two percent from the 2005 total of 7.10 million, while the yield per tap is estimated to be 0.200 gallons, up 14 percent from the previous season.

Vermont led all states in production with 460,000 gallons, an increase of 12 percent from 2005. Maine's production, at 300,000 gallons, increased 13 percent from last season. Production in New York, at 253,000 gallons, is 14 percent above 2005. Production doubled in Wisconsin, and is up 34 percent in Michigan, 13 percent in Ohio, 12 percent in New Hampshire, and eight percent in Pennsylvania. Production remained the same in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Large increases in yield as well as additional taps set in many States led to this year's increased production.

Temperatures in the maple producing states varied across the country. While producers in Maine, Michigan, Ohio, Vermont, and Wisconsin reported favorable conditions, producers in the other five States experienced weather that was either too warm or too cold for favorable sap flow. On average, the season lasted approximately 28 days compared to 24 days in 2005. Michigan and Pennsylvania had the earliest season opening date of January 1. Michigan also had the latest sap flow in 2006 with an approximate season ending date of May 2.

Sugar content of the sap for 2006 is down from last year. On average, approximately 43 gallons of sap were required to produce one gallon of syrup. This compares to with 40 gallons in 2005 and 42 gallons in 2004. The majority of the syrup produced this year is of medium color. The 2005 U.S. average price per gallon is $29.90, up $1.50 from the 2004 price of $28.40. The U.S. value of production, at $37.1 million for 2005, is down 13 percent from 2004. The average price per gallon increased in all States except Connecticut and Michigan.

NEW ENGLAND (excluding Rhode Island): In New England maple syrup production for 2006 totaled 874,000, up 12 percent from last year. Vermont remained the largest producing state in New England and the nation, with 32 percent of the nation's maplesyrup. Taps in New England totaled 4.1 million, up less than one percent from last year and making up 57 percent of the nation's maple taps.

The 2006 maple season was rated mostly favorable in temperature. Three New England states showed improved production from last year's devastating crop losses, while Connecticut and Massachusetts remained unchanged from the previous year. Temperatures were reported to be 47 percent favorable, 30 percent too warm and 23 percent too cool. Many operations reported fluctuating temperatures with January starting off extremely warm and then changing so much that in February it was too cold for sap to flow in some areas. Snow fall was pretty much non-existent this year, which made it easy to get in and out of the sugar bushes to set taps and collect sap. March finally brought mild days and cool nights, and increased sap flows. By mid-April however, many operators had decided to wrap the season up early as temperatures had begun to rise and trees were showing signs of budding. Earliest dates for each state were as follows: Connecticut and Vermont - January 15, Maine – January 20, Massachusetts – January 25, and New Hampshire – January 30. Latest closing dates were Connecticut – April 14, Maine – April 26, New Hampshire – April 29, and Massachusetts and Vermont – April 30. The sugar content of the sap was below average, requiring approximately 43 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. The majority of syrup produced was medium amber followed by dark amber and then light syrup.

2005 PRICES AND SALES: Across New England, the average equivalent price per gallon for 2005 maple syrup varied widely depending on the percentage sold retail, wholesale, or bulk. The 2005 all sales equivalent prices increased $4.90 in Massachusetts to $51.20, $2.10 in Maine to $21.50, $5.90 in New Hampshire to $41.30, and $0.50 in Vermont to $27.80. The price dropped $1.70 in Connecticut to $50.00. Maine's price continues to be lower than the other states due to the high percentage of bulk sales within the state. It should be noted that bulk prices did show a large increase in 2005. New England's 2005 gallon equivalent price of $28.13 reflects an increase of $1.26 from the 2004 price of $26.87.

MAPLE SYRUP: Taps, Yield, and Production, 2004 – 2006

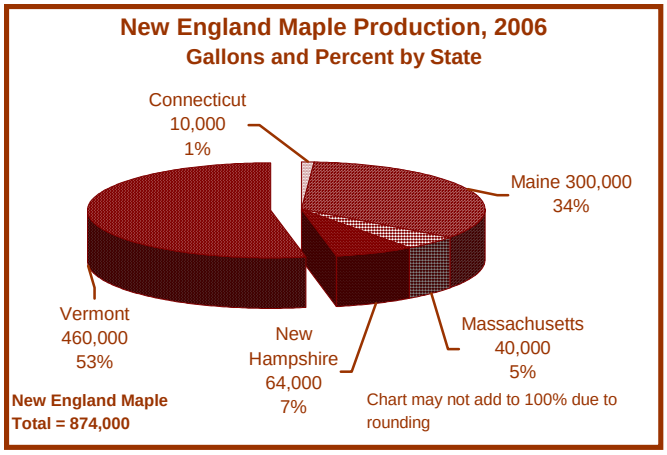
State	Taps			Yield per Tap			Production		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
	1,000 Taps			Gallons			1,000 Gallons		
Connecticut	62	63	61	0.177	0.159	0.164	11	10	10
Maine	1,290	1,300	1,315	0.225	0.204	0.228	290	265	300
Massachusetts	235	240	245	0.213	0.167	0.163	50	40	40
New Hampshire	360	365	355	0.231	0.156	0.180	83	57	64
Vermont	2,100	2,140	2,170	0.238	0.192	0.212	500	410	460
NEW ENGLAND [1/]	**4,047**	**4,108**	**4,146**	**0.231**	**0.190**	**0.211**	**934**	**782**	**874**
Michigan	370	390	375	0.216	0.149	0.208	80	58	78
New York	1,345	1,420	1,530	0.190	0.156	0.165	255	222	253
Ohio	405	355	360	0.193	0.194	0.217	78	69	78
Pennsylvania	404	428	449	0.149	0.143	0.147	60	61	66
Wisconsin	385	400	400	0.260	0.125	0.250	100	50	100
UNITED STATES	**6,956**	**7,101**	**7,260**	**0.217**	**0.175**	**0.200**	**1,507**	**1,242**	**1,449**
New Brunswick [2/]	—	—	—	—	—	—	210	248	—
Nova Scotia [2/]	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	25	—
Ontario [2/]	—	—	—	—	—	—	262	262	—
Quebec [2/]	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,551	6,822	—
CANADA [2/ 3/]	—	—	—	—	—	—	**7,050**	**7,359**	—

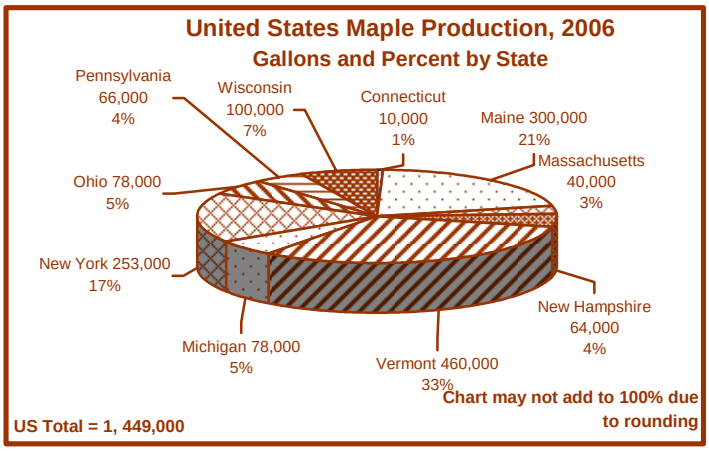
[1/] New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, and VT.
[2/] Canadian data incomplete; figures unavailable at the time of publication. Canadian imperial gallons were converted to United States gallons (one imperial gallon times 1.2021778 equals one United States gallon)
[3/] Data may not add due to rounding.
SOURCE: United States – Crop Production, 8:30 a.m., June 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Canada – Statistics Canada.

MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price, and Value, 2003 – 2005

State	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales [1/]			Value of Production		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	1,000 Gallons			United States Dollars			United States 1,000 Dollars		
Connecticut	10	11	10	48.60	51.70	50.00	486	569	500
Maine	285	290	265	22.50	19.40	21.50	6,413	5,626	5,698
Massachusetts	37	50	40	41.90	46.30	51.20	1,550	2,315	2,048
New Hampshire	60	83	57	43.00	35.40	41.30	2,580	2,938	2,354
Vermont	420	500	410	27.80	27.30	27.80	11,676	13,650	11,398
NEW ENGLAND [2/]	**812**	**934**	**782**	**27.96**	**26.87**	**28.13**	**22,705**	**25,098**	**21,998**
Michigan	59	80	58	31.20	38.00	36.00	1,841	3,040	2,088
New York	210	255	222	26.80	28.20	31.70	5,628	7,191	7,037
Ohio	51	78	69	35.10	32.00	36.00	1,790	2,496	2,484
Pennsylvania	52	60	61	27.40	29.00	31.50	1,425	1,740	1,922
Wisconsin	76	100	50	29.10	32.30	32.40	2,212	3,230	1,620
UNITED STATES	**1,260**	**1,507**	**1,242**	**28.30**	**28.40**	**29.90**	**35,601**	**42,795**	**37,149**
New Brunswick [3/]	191	210	248	26.56	28.75	29.01	5,073	6,037	7,194
Nova Scotia [3/]	36	26	25	28.72	30.85	33.96	1,034	802	849
Ontario [3/]	262	262	262	30.41	31.30	33.77	7,968	8,201	8,848
Quebec [3/]	6,822	6,551	6,822	14.86	14.94	18.19	101,344	97,886	124,109
CANADA [3/]	**7,312**	**7,050**	**7,359**	**15.78**	**16.02**	19.16	**115,417**	**112,925**	**141,000**

[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, 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 were 0.74118 for 2003, .750469 for 2004, and .805283 for 2005. Canadian imperial gallons were converted to United States gallons (one imperial gallon times 1.2021778 equals one United States gallon.)
SOURCE: United States – ***Crop Production,*** 8:30 a.m., June 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Canada – Statistics Canada.





MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 2004 – 2005

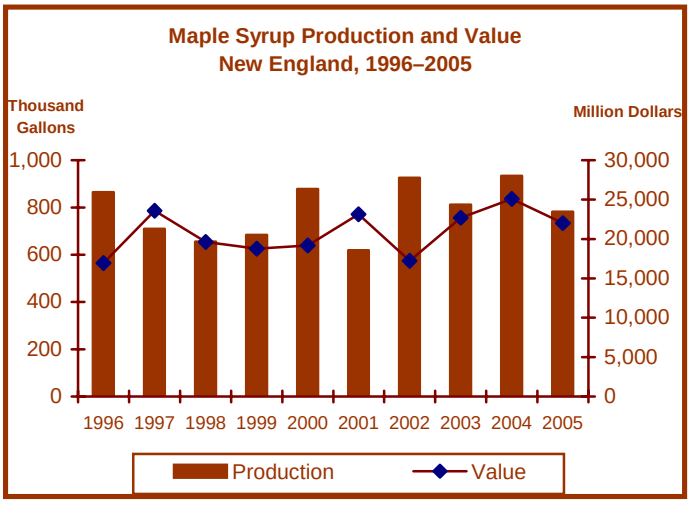
Type of Sale	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Retail	85	80	3	2	55	65	50	65	30	30
Wholesale	10	10	2	1	30	20	25	20	10	10
Bulk	5	10	95	97	15	15	25	15	60	60

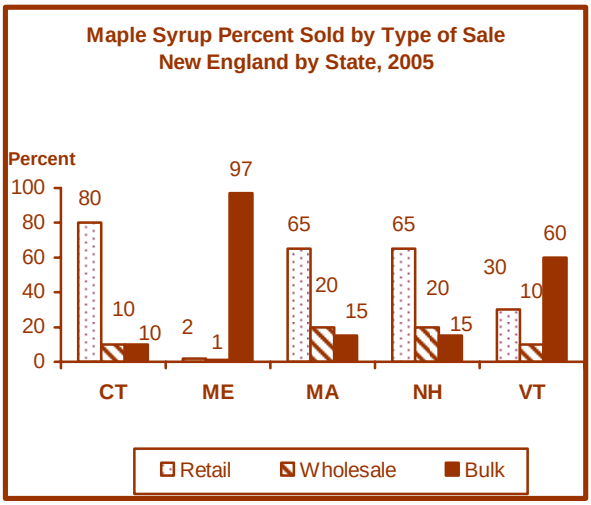
SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 2004 – 2005

Type of Sale	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Retail	60	48	50	45	61	63	55	56	42	42
Wholesale	23	28	19	22	14	17	11	16	16	23
Bulk	17	24	31	33	25	20	34	28	42	35

SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.





MAPLE SYRUP: Retail and Wholesale Prices and Size of Containers, 2003 - 2005

State and Year	Retail								Wholesale						
	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz. (100 ml)	8.5 oz. (100 ml)	12 oz. (355 ml)	Gallon	Half Gallon	Quart	Pint	Half Pint	3.4 oz. (100 ml)	8.5 oz. (250 ml)
	Dollars								Dollars						
Connecticut															
2003	36.90	21.00	12.30	7.50	4.70	3.00	8.10	1/	31.30	16.70	9.00	5.30	3.00	1.50	1/
2004	39.10	22.20	13.50	8.40	5.20	3.00	8.60	N/A	33.30	16.40	9.00	5.30	3.50	2.30	1/
2005	39.30	23.00	13.30	8.20	4.70	3.50	9.30	N/A	34.10	17.00	10.30	5.30	4.00	2.10	1/
Maine															
2003	35.70	19.20	11.00	7.10	4.90	2.60	7.40	1/	28.50	16.90	8.30	4.90	2.90	1/	4.60
2004	36.60	19.90	10.60	6.50	4.40	2.70	7.80	8.20	29.00	15.90	8.60	4.70	3.30	2.60	5.70
2005	35.00	19.70	11.10	6.80	4.00	2.30	7.80	10.10	30.00	15.90	8.50	4.80	4.00	2.40	6.00
Massachusetts															
2003	35.00	20.10	12.10	7.50	5.00	2.40	1/	1/	27.20	16.80	9.20	5.60	3.40	1.90	1/
2004	34.80	19.70	11.70	7.00	4.00	3.30	8.50	10.20	29.20	16.60	9.00	5.50	3.40	2.10	7.40
2005	37.50	22.10	13.10	8.80	5.50	2.60	10.00	10.30	30.10	16.80	9.60	5.50	3.60	1.70	1/
New Hampshire															
2003	34.60	20.10	11.80	7.20	4.20	3.10	8.40	1/	27.60	17.00	9.60	5.50	3.40	1.80	5.00
2004	34.30	19.50	11.20	7.00	4.10	3.20	8.30	1/	27.70	16.60	9.60	5.30	3.10	2.10	5.90
2005	36.60	21.10	12.10	7.30	4.70	2.90	7.60	9.30	30.00	17.10	9.90	5.70	3.30	2.10	5.20
Vermont															
2003	31.70	18.70	11.50	7.10	4.60	2.80	7.90	1/	27.80	17.10	9.60	5.80	3.60	2.10	6.00
2004	31.70	18.50	11.40	7.10	4.60	2.80	6.80	7.70	28.40	16.40	9.40	5.60	3.50	2.20	5.80
2005	32.30	19.60	11.60	7.40	4.90	2.90	6.40	7.70	27.60	16.70	9.50	5.40	3.40	1.70	4.10
Michigan															
2003	33.10	18.60	10.10	6.10	4.40	2/	2/	2/	27.50	14.90	8.50	4.80	3.70	2/	2/
2004	32.70	19.10	10.60	6.20	3.90	2/	2/	2/	25.70	16.70	8.70	5.00	3.20	2/	2/
2005	34.20	18.90	10.30	6.50	4.20	2/	2/	2/	29.00	16.40	8.60	4.60	3.50	2/	2/
New York															
2003	30.20	17.80	10.40	6.50	4.30	2/	2/	2/	25.50	14.70	8.00	4.80	3.00	2/	2/
2004	32.20	17.80	10.50	6.50	3.90	2/	2/	2/	25.60	16.70	7.80	4.90	3.00	2/	2/
2005	32.50	18.80	11.10	6.90	4.40	2/	2/	2/	25.60	16.10	8.80	5.20	3.20	2/	2/
Ohio															
2003	29.40	17.40	10.20	7.10	4.30	2/	2/	2/	24.10	15.80	9.00	4.70	1/	2/	2/
2004	28.70	17.60	10.40	6.50	4.50	2/	2/	2/	26.80	14.20	8.00	4.80	3.30	2/	2/
2005	31.20	18.40	10.70	6.60	4.50	2/	2/	2/	26.20	16.50	8.50	5.80	3.80	2/	2/
Pennsylvania															
2003	28.80	17.50	10.00	6.00	3.80	2/	2/	2/	27.20	15.70	8.30	4.80	2.90	2/	2/
2004	29.50	17.10	10.00	6.00	3.90	2/	2/	2/	26.00	14.20	8.20	5.00	3.50	2/	2/
2005	29.30	18.00	10.60	6.10	4.30	2/	2/	2/	27.50	15.60	8.60	4.70	3.90	2/	2/
Wisconsin															
2003	28.40	15.30	8.30	4.95	3.15	2/	2/	2/	27.70	15.20	8.30	4.50	2.85	2/	2/
2004	28.60	16.10	8.70	5.30	3.50	2/	2/	2/	26.00	15.20	8.30	5.40	3.00	2/	2/
2005	30.60	16.80	9.10	5.70	4.20	2/	2/	2/	33.00	17.10	9.10	5.30	3.00	2/	2/

1/ Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
2/ Only available in New England States.
SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

MAPLE SYRUP: Bulk Prices by Grade and All Sales Gallon Equivalent Prices, 2003 – 2005

State and Year	Bulk					All Sales Per Gallon Equivalent Price [1/]
	Grade A			Grades B and C	All Grades	
	Light Amber	Med. Amber	Dark Amber			
	Dollars Per Pound [2/]					Dollars
Connecticut						
2003	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/	3/	48.60
2004	N/A	N/A	1.43	1.09	1.10	51.70
2005	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	50.00
Maine						
2003	1.76	1.70	1.63	1.18	1.60	22.50
2004	1.79	1.73	1.50	1.25	1.60	19.40
2005	1.95	1.90	1.81	1.49	1.90	21.50
Massachusetts						
2003	1.85	1.58	1.40	1.03	1.30	41.90
2004	2.00	1.86	1.52	1.12	1.50	46.30
2005	2.07	1.87	1.68	1.49	1.65	51.20
New Hampshire						
2003	1.87	1.71	1.40	1.03	1.40	43.00
2004	1.88	1.68	1.51	.97	1.40	35.40
2005	1.85	1.76	1.64	1.33	1.60	41.30
Vermont						
2003	2.00	1.76	1.51	1.20	1.60	27.80
2004	1.90	1.74	1.54	1.23	1.60	27.30
2005	1.94	1.80	1.64	1.34	1.70	27.80
Michigan						
2003	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.90	31.20
2004	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.75	38.00
2005	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.80	36.00
New York						
2003	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.30	26.80
2004	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.40	28.20
2005	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.70	31.70
Ohio						
2003	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.60	35.10
2004	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.55	32.00
2005	4/	4/	4/	4/	2.00	36.00
Pennsylvania						
2003	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.05	27.40
2004	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.35	29.00
2005	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.60	31.50
Wisconsin						
2003	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.50	29.10
2004	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.50	32.30
2005	4/	4/	4/	4/	1.70	32.40

[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/] Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
[4/] Only available in New England States.
SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 a.m., June 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

2006 Comments From Maple Producers, By County

CONNECTICUT – Fairfield: It was an average season. We had great sap runs mid-February and the beginning of March. Syrup was dark. Sugar content was lower this season. **Litchfield:** The temperature was all over the place. It was very windy with a lot of tree and line damage. It was a very bad year with constant wind and no cold weather. The season started early, some tapped in January then a two week freeze-up was followed by a strong finish. We mostly made light and medium syrup, with normal quantities of dark B. Warm weather in later February gave us an early sap run. Then a cold stretch shut us down for three weeks until the end of March when we had a very good run until the end of the season. **New London:** It was the second most productive March in 17 years. **Tolland:** We collected with vacuum this year and fewer taps. Without the vacuum sap flow would have been much less. The season started early with warm weather the first part of February. The weather then turned cold for the end of February and the first part of March. The cold nights and warm days never seemed to come together until late March and by then the trees had started to dry up.

MAINE – Androscoggin: Too cold in the beginning and then it turned too warm. Not a good year; having no snow didn't help. **Aroostook:** Syrup was darker than normal. **Cumberland:** Fairly short season, but when it ran it ran well. Despite having five days during the mid-season of sub-freezing temperatures and many windy days, the season turned out rather well. **Franklin:** Very good conditions for tapping. The season was a little later than usual. **Kennebec:** The beginning was too cold, than we got a good two week stretch in mid-March. **Oxford:** Toward the end of March it warmed up too fast. We went out to check our sap collection and during the night it must have ran because our barrels were almost overflowing, but the flow during the day was very slow. Syrup started out very dark and then changed to medium. The weather was too warm and not enough snow. The syrup was 90% dark. **Somerset:** It was an average year. Westerly wind stopped sap flow. It was a very short season. **Waldo:** It was a short season. It was too cold; then way too warm. It wasn't favorable. Only got half of what we planned because it was too warm. This year was a real disappointment. **York:** Mid-February was peak time then had two cold spells that stopped flow. It ran early then it stopped, had couple of good runs. We had ideal temperatures but the sap was just not running strong. We had one week of a solid run at the end of March and then it was over. Overall, the season was a bit better than 2005.

MASSACHUSETTS – Berkshire: Sap run at the end of March was hard to keep up with. Weather was fickle; poor for sugaring. Temperatures varied a lot and gas prices were too high so we cut back on tapping this year. **Franklin:** There was a wide range of color and temperatures this year. The season started slow due to cold weather and then the sap came all at once in the last part of March. We did well; other people tapped too early and we think we waited and it worked out. It was a late season and people that tapped early were hurt. We got one good run in and then it froze for several weeks; then we got a couple of good runs after that. Quality of syrup was good this year. **Hampden:** Didn't do anything this year because of the weather; hopefully if mother nature lets us we will tap next year. We made a lot darker syrup than other years. There was a short collection time this year because it was too cold. We put in a vacuum system this year and it helped a lot. **Hampshire:** It started too warm then got too cold then too warm again. We made most of our syrup from March 15th on. **Worcester:** Many of the decent days were hindered by overcast and wind. Many nights were too cold for sap to get flowing the next day. It was such strange weather this year that we decided not to tap.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Belknap: It was not a good sugaring season. It was too cold then too warm. Syrup quality was good, but the season was short. **Carroll:** It was both too warm and too cold. We only had two days that sap ran really good. The syrup started out medium and then turned darker at the end. It was easy getting around because of no snow. **Cheshire:** It took more sap than usual to make a gallon of syrup. It was too warm then too cold; the weather was weird. Prices on bulk went up considerably this year, had we known we would have tried to produce way more dark. **Coos:** Temperature was favorable. Sugar content was low so the syrup was dark. Best year out of the last three; boiled 16 times and syrup was light. **Grafton:** Low sugar content like last year. Syrup was darker then normal. **Sullivan:** Very low sugar content for majority of season. It was a short season; syrup was real sweet this year. Ran out of "steam" (energy) before we ran out of sap! It was good weather but the season started later and was short.

VERMONT – Addison: Made a lot of syrup late in the season. It was not warm enough during the day and not cold enough during the night for good sap flow.

Bennington: It was a crazy year. It was too warm early on, but most producers did not want to tap then and have the taps dry out before the traditional March run. This year was a short season. We usually make fancy, but no fancy syrup this year. **Caledonia:** Most of the season was favorable. The weather was too cold for sap flow in early March and then it warmed up fast. By the time we got the right temperatures, I think it was too late. The wind was a problem. This year's syrup had very low sugar content. **Chittenden:** Boiled half of syrup in one three day run. **Franklin:** Exceptional year; very pleased with quality and quantity. Syrup was light in the beginning and then got darker throughout the season. Quality was excellent and weather fine; Added vacuum this year. We produced some really good fancy this year. Overall quality was good, taste was excellent, and flows were good. We had a very good year. We produced our syrup in one week! The weather was crazy. The vacuum lines did well; buckets not so well, which proves the difference. Sugar content ranged from 2.5 down to 1; better than last year as far as production goes. **Orange:** Had a very bad year. Syrup started out light but quickly went to medium and then dark grade B. Sugar content was very low and the syrup wasn't as sweet as it should be. At the beginning of the season it took 33 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. By the latter part of the season it took 50 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. The wind was very cold and the sap wouldn't run. The frost probably went too far below the soil this year. Southern Vermont had one of the worst years. Northern Vermont, in higher elevations, had a pretty decent year. **Orleans:** Produced half of what we wanted to this year, but quality was good. We didn't get the sap we wanted this year; it wasn't a good year for us. Sap runs were great; it was an ok year for us. We had a long season but the sap wasn't as good as last year. **Rutland:** It was cold early, favorable in the middle, and warmed to a quick end. It was not a good year. The season was too short. It was one of toughest years ever. **Washington:** It was too cold in the beginning of the season and then when it warmed up it stayed warm. **Windham:** It was very dry. Lack of snow this past winter contributed to the dryness. Syrup was lighter than usual with incredible flavor; very strong maple flavor for fancy! **Windsor:** Right in the middle of the season we had a warm spell that we did not recover well from. Too warm a couple of days at the wrong time, but overall ok. The season was better than last year. No crop due to caterpillar infestation. The overall weather was not too bad. We had some good freeze thaw cycles but the sap never really ran that well. February and March were too cold. The only good sap runs were in late March and early April.

About the NASS New England Office

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is a network of 46 field offices (including the New England office in Concord, NH) serving all 50 states and Puerto Rico through cooperative agreements with state departments of agriculture or universities. These field offices regularly survey thousands of farm operators, ranchers, and agri-businesses who voluntarily provide information on a confidential basis. Consolidating these reports with field observations, objective yield measurements, and other data, statisticians then produce state statistics. These statistics are forwarded to NASS headquarters in Washington, D.C., where they are combined and released to the public.

Reporting, recording, and estimating agricultural data in the United States has been accomplished almost as long as the country itself has existed. The first formal agricultural survey and reports were promulgated by President George Washington in 1791. These reports included information about the current state of agriculture in an area of approximately 25,000 square miles encompassing portions of modern day Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. During those early days buyers routinely had more current information about the value of agricultural products than did farmers. This placed the farmer at a distinct disadvantage when negotiating prices.

The first national census of agriculture was conducted in 1840 by Patent Commissioner Hennery Ellsworth. The census information was combined with other data to produce a comprehensive estimate of production by state. This reporting continued annually for four years and became the model for agricultural reporting today. In the modern market place NASS provides accurate production, inventory, and value data to producers, buyers, and consumers alike. NASS ensures everyone has access to the same mathematically reliable information.

New England's own Field Office provides an accurate, unbiased picture of the agriculture in the six New England States and the region as a whole. Measurement of present and prospective supplies furnishes a sound basis for judgment and action by farmers, agri-businesses, researchers, marketing programs, and agencies serving farmers. Without those who take the time to provide the data this service would not be possible.

This report is taken from the June issue of the National Crop Production report published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at 8:30 a.m. on June 9, 2006. This annual report includes prices received for the previous year's crop. All National reports and State-level newsletters, such as this, are available on the Internet.

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