

# New England Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

*Permanent*



NEW ENGLAND  
Crop Reporting  
Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
NEW ENGLAND STATES  
DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE

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## MAPLE SYRUP

May 19, 1986

### NEW ENGLAND MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION BELOW PREVIOUS YEAR

Maple syrup production during the 1986 season in the four New England states totaled 434,000 gallons, a 35 percent drop from the previous season. The decrease was the result of a lower yield per tap, which more than offset a higher number of taps. Vermont remains the leading producer, with 338,000 gallons in 1986, down 36 percent from last year.

The season throughout the four maple syrup producing New England states was reported as being unfavorable, with the weather being mostly too warm and, to a smaller degree, too cool. The season lasted about 25 days. The average opening dates were March 10 in Maine, March 8 in Massachusetts, March 12 in New Hampshire and March 14 in Vermont; three to eleven days later than last season. The average closing dates were April 4 in Maine, April 1 in Massachusetts, April 3 in New Hampshire, and April 8 in Vermont, a few days earlier than the previous year.

The sweetness was in the normal range, with a reported New England average of 39 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup. However, the sweetness of the sap did vary among the New England states from an average sweetness of sap in Maine of 36 gallons, to an average sweetness of sap in Vermont of 40 gallons. The color of the syrup in the region was mostly medium, with the remaining supply being more dark than light.

The value of production for New England is expected to total over \$10 million in 1986, 24 percent less than the 1985 crop. The decrease in production more than offset the increase in price, and thus caused the decrease in value. The average price of 1986 maple syrup in the New England states is around \$23.99 per gallon, compared to \$20.38 per gallon of maple syrup produced in 1985.

New York maple production totaled 262,000 gallons, 17 percent below the 1985 production. The season was unfavorable, due mostly to warm weather. The season started on March 11 and closed on April 4. The sap sweetness was within normal range, with a reported average of 39 gallons to make a gallon of syrup. The color of syrup was medium to dark.

MAPLE SYRUP: PRODUCTION AND VALUE, NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK, 1985 AND 1986

STATE	PRODUCTION		SEASON AVERAGE PRICE PER GALLON		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
	1,000 gallons		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Maine	10	6	24.70	29.00	247	174
Massachusetts	42*	30	22.40	26.30	941	789
New Hampshire	92	60	24.30	27.90	2,236	1,674
Vermont	525	338	19.45	23.00	10,211	7,774
NEW ENGLAND	669	434	20.38	23.99	13,635	10,411
New York	315	262	17.10	18.50	5,387	4,847

\* Revised

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE  
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIAN  
P.O. BOX 1444  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

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