



**NEW ENGLAND
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS**

Permanent



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MAPLE RELEASE

**NASS
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MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION BELOW PREVIOUS YEAR IN NEW ENGLAND

The 1987 maple syrup production in the four New England states totaled 355,000 gallons, and the lowest production in the region since 1971. This was an 18 percent drop from the previous season and the third consecutive year of decreasing production. The decrease was the result of lower yields per tap, which more than offset the increase in number of taps. Vermont remained the leading producer, with 275,000 gallons in 1987, down 19 percent from last year, and the lowest production since 1971.

The season throughout the four maple syrup producing states in New England was reported as being generally unfavorable. The 1987 season, like 1986, was short, lasting only about 25 days. The average opening date was late starting, about March 6 in Massachusetts, March 10 in New Hampshire, March 14 in Vermont and March 16 in Maine. The average closing date was April 1 in Massachusetts through April 8 in Maine and Vermont. During the season, there were not any prolonged periods of good runs. Temperatures were generally reported as too warm, although there were periods of cool days that kept the sap from flowing.

The sweetness of the sap in New England was near normal, with an average of 40 gallons of sap needed to make a gallon of syrup in 1987, compared with 39 gallons in 1986. The color of the syrup was generally dark to medium in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, and medium to light in Massachusetts.

The value of production for New England is expected to total over \$11 million in 1987, 4 percent above the 1986 crop, but 12 percent below the record high value set in 1985. Record high prices for 1987 maple syrup in New England are expected to average about \$33.15 per gallon equivalent, compared with \$26.02 per gallon for the 1986 crop. The increase in price more than offset the lower production.

New York maple syrup production totaled 225,000 gallons, 14 percent below the 1986 production. The maple season in New York was 27 days long, 2 days longer than last year but 5 days shorter than the average. Sap was of medium sweetness, requiring an average of 40 gallons to make one gallon of syrup. Syrup color was mostly medium to light.

MAPLE SYRUP: PRODUCTION AND VALUE, NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK, 1986 AND 1987

STATE	PRODUCTION		SEASON AVERAGE PRICE PER GALLON		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987
	1,000 gallons		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Maine	6	5	29.60	36.00	178	180
Massachusetts	30	28	25.10	31.00	753	868
New Hampshire	60	47	27.90	35.00	1,674	1,645
Vermont	338	275	25.70	33.00	8,687	9,075
NEW ENGLAND	434	355	26.02	33.15	11,292	11,768
New York	262	225	19.60	22.90	5,135	5,153

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