

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture
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NEWS RELEASE
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Ceremonial Tree Tapping to Kick off International Maple Month

Charleston, W.Va. – Maple season has arrived in the Mountain State. March is International Maple Month. Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt will kick off the sweetest time of the year with a ceremonial maple tapping on March 8, at 10:00 a.m., at the Gus R. Douglass Agriculture Center at Guthrie.

“West Virginia’s maple industry is growing. From maple syrup to maple cotton candy, West Virginians want to purchase all things maple from local producers. More than 30 maple producers are now tapping into the state’s abundant maple resources,” said Commissioner Leonhardt.

The commissioner along with Deputy Commissioner Joe Hatton and members of the WV Maple Syrup Producers Association will be on hand for the ceremonial tapping and will explain how sap is collected, produced and marketed here in West Virginia. Following the tapping, a pancake and maple syrup tasting will be held at the WVDA’s Administration Building.

The tapping is the kick off to a month of maple activities around the state. The second annual Mountain State Maple Day is taking place March 18. Eleven maple houses will open their doors to the public allowing people to see the maple process from tree to table. The annual West Virginia Maple Syrup Festival also takes place on March 18 in Pickens. Several communities will hold pancake dinners on that day as well. For more information:
<http://www.agriculture.wv.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/MapleDay2017reprint.pdf>.

The ceremonial tapping will get underway Wednesday, March 8 at 10:00 a.m. at 255 Gus R. Douglass Lane, Charleston, WV 25305. It may be a bit muddy, please wear appropriate footwear.

For more information, please contact Communications Director Crescent Gallagher at cgallagher@wvda.us or 304-558-3708.

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