

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Walt Helmick, Commissioner



304-558-3708

www.agriculture.wv.gov



Facebook: West Virginia Department of Agriculture



Twitter: @WVDeptofAg

NEWS RELEASE
June 30, 2016

Contact: Buddy Davidson
Communications Officer
304/558-3708; 304/541-5932 (cell)
bdavidson@wvda.us

WEST VIRGINIA TO HOST MAPLE CAMP IN JULY

Maple Syrup is one of the State's Fastest Growing Agricultural Industries

Charleston, W.Va. – It's time to go to camp! The West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia University, the West Virginia Maple Syrup Producers Association (WVMSPA) and Cornell University are teaming up to host the Mid-Atlantic Maple Camp set for July 20-23 at West Virginia University. The four-day event will focus on maple syrup production, one of the state's fastest growing agri-industries.

"We are excited to host this year's event, the first time for West Virginia," said Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick. "West Virginia has tens of thousands of acres of trees just waiting to be tapped. We have the natural resource, climate and know-how to expand. Now we need to educate landowners on how to begin or grow an existing maple business."

Maple Camp begins on July 20 with a pre-conference workshop featuring Les Ober, the Agriculture and Natural Resource Program Coordinator at Ohio State University specializing in maple production. The conference officially gets underway later that day with dinner.

"Maple Camp is all about learning from those who have been there," stressed WVMSPA President Ed Howell. "We have a group of maple experts presenting workshops and field trips to working maple operations to help campers learn what the industry entails."

The Mid-Atlantic Maple Camp is made possible by a grant through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. For more details and a full schedule of events, log on to the WVDA webpage at: <http://goo.gl/T0Xm0p>.

###