

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Walt Helmick, Commissioner



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NEWS RELEASE

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WEST VIRGINIA TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MAPLE SURVEY

Charleston, W.Va. – West Virginia’s maple industry continues to grow by leaps and bounds. More than two dozen producers across the state already turn sap into maple syrup, maple candy, maple sugar and other maple treats. In order to find out how many people now take part in the business, West Virginia, for the first time, will be included in the National Maple Survey conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Producers can expect to be contacted during the latter part of April through May 17, 2016.

“This survey will let producers and consumers know we have a market here for maple products. This is a really sweet opportunity for all of West Virginia,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick.

The survey asks various questions including the number of taps, the amount of syrup produced, sap flow temperature, the color of the syrup, sales and the length of sap collection.

State Statistician for the WV field office, Charmaine Wilson, said being a part of the national study helps the agriculture community, business leaders and data users. “The survey’s results will help others really see what the producers are doing in West Virginia. It’s a great tool. When people respond to surveys, the estimates are better. We are excited to begin this program and work closely with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.”

Producers may receive a survey in the mail with the option to respond over the Internet or a phone call to collect the information. Final results will be released in the *Crop Production Report* on June 10th at noon. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS West Virginia Field Office at 1-800-535-7088.

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