



The Importance of Maple Research in NNY

The six-county Northern New York region has approximately 434 farms with 604,937 taps producing 105,613 gallons of maple syrup annually, according to the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Maple is a high value crop across NNY and its production is a sustainable use of a widespread natural resource for the region.

The farmer-driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program supports the regional maple industry with research conducted in privately-owned sugarbushes and at the Uihlein Forest Sugar Maple Research Station, established in 1965, in Lake Placid.

The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, established in the 1960s, is a research and education program addressing issues specific to agriculture in Northern New York (NNY), i.e., Essex, Clinton, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Lewis and Jefferson counties. Assessment of crop species and varieties under NNY conditions, during both warm weather and the cold winter months, provides information critical for maple production decision making. The Program supplies data on quality and yield, disease and pest control, environmental impact, and how to meet and exceed consumer food quality trends.

2006 NNYADP Maple Project

In 2006, researchers funded by the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, will evaluate ways to improve the growth of maple trees to increase sap sugar yield and to improve sugarbush/forest management practices under NNY conditions.

The success of any maple operation begins with the ability of trees to produce sap, remain healthy, and sustain production over a long period of time. Little is known about how to manage maple trees for fast growth in the NNY environment. Also, the relationship between sugar yield per tree and sugar yield per acre under different tree stocking densities has not been established anywhere. The results of this project will help maple producers maximize production and profits, while improving tree/sugarbush health.

The project is led by Cornell University Professor Brian F. Chabot and NYS and Cornell Maple Program Extension Forester Peter J. Smallidge working with Uihlein Forest Director Michael Farrell and Research Technician Nathaniel Chase. County extension educators include Laurel Gailor (Warren), Richard Gast (Franklin), Michele Ledoux (Lewis/Jefferson), Emily Selleck (Essex/Clinton) and Steve VanderMark (St. Lawrence).

The project's participating regional maple producers in late January 2006 include Mike Hill, Barbara and Jason Zehr, and the Burnham family. Other producers are expected to join as the project gets underway.

*Maple producers at a workshop
at Uihlein Maple Research Station.*



Uihlein Forest Sugar Maple Research & Extension Field Station, Lake Placid, NY

The Uihlein Maple Research Station in the Adirondack Mountain region near Lake Placid was established in 1965 with the aid of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Uihlein II. The Station is recognized throughout the Northeastern US and Canada as a leading center for sugar maple research.

More than 220 acres provide an outdoor laboratory for the study of forest management and health, and specifically for maple syrup production and processing. The Station's greenhouse and sugarbush are at the core of a Northeast regional research initiative to identify and cultivate genetically improved maple stock. State-of-the-art vacuum tubing and processing equipment enable researchers to develop improved techniques for sap collection and syrup processing.

The sugar bush here has about 4,000 taps that have shown increasing annual production. Maple products produced at the sugarhouse facility here help support maple research and extension efforts.

The Uihlein Forest Sugar Maple Research & Extension Field Station is administered by Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Natural Resources.

To Learn More:

To learn about a 2006 maple research project that will include work at Uihlein and in the sugarbushes of regional maple producers, please see the reverse side of this flier.

To learn more about maple research extension, visit <http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu>.

To learn more about the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, a farmer-driven research and education program specific to New York state's six northernmost counties: Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex, visit www.nnyagdev.org.

The Program has received long-term funding from NYS Senator James W. Wright and NYS Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little. The Program also receives support — funds, time, land, expertise — from Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell's Agricultural Experiment Station, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute, the six NNY Cornell Cooperative Extension associations, cooperating farmers and others.

The Program's Co-Chairs are Jon Greenwood, Canton, 315-386-3231 and Joe Giroux, Plattsburgh, 518-563-7523. Program Coordinator is R. David Smith, 607-255-7286.

