



Farmer-Driven  
Northern New York Agricultural Development Program  
*Real-World On-Farm Practical Research  
& Results for North Country Farms*  
[www.nnyagdev.org](http://www.nnyagdev.org)



Photo: Michele Ledoux

*"I was interested to participate in this Northern New York Agricultural Development Program research as a way to develop an opportunity for extra income. . . This type of regional research is part of helping landowners discover untapped resources."*

— Joy Herfurth, Brandy Brook Maple Farm, opening a maple-influenced winery in 2017

## ***Enhancing Northern NY's Maple Industry & Sugarbush Health***

Dozens of regional maple producers have participated in Northern New York Agricultural Development Program sugarbush management projects to improve the growth of maple trees, increase sap yield and quality, and enhance sugar maple forest management practices. NNY projects selected to meet regional producer-identified needs and conducted by Cornell University Maple Program specialists have addressed:

- **Testing tap and tubing changeout** to reduce line contamination, boost sap yield and income
- **Forest density, overstocking, and overtapping** by developing precision sugarbush thinning practices, including forest inventory, tree measurement, selecting trees for removal, and using thinning tables to reach target residual basal area
- **Baseline sap sugar content/volume data** to track precision management benefits over time
- **Quantifying taphole closure** as a low-cost, low-effort assessment of tree growth and health
- **When to tap in-season and early run tapping** to boost production in NNY micro-climates
- **2015-16: producing birch syrup** as niche product and revenue opportunity (\$200/gallon, \$20 gross/tap) for NNY sugarmakers: trials on sap/syrup yield, sugar content, vacuum collection, microspouts, and evaporator sizing for efficient processing with existing maple equipment
- **2017: "sweet tree" research** on clonal micropropagation to develop robust, high sap sugar content rootstock to enhance the long-term economic vitality of NNY sugar maple industry.

***Would you like to receive news & notices of the real-world project results from the farmer-driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program?***

**Text 315-408-2841 or send email with Subject Line: NNYADP Results to [karalynn@gisco.net](mailto:karalynn@gisco.net) and add to approved senders**



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## GROWING THE NORTHERN NY MAPLE INDUSTRY

Farmer-driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program (NNYADP) grant projects develop research and technical outreach to build on the opportunity for Northern New York to double its maple income to more than \$10 million (Farrell, NNYADP, 2008-09).

*The six-county NNY region is a maple sugaring powerhouse.*

The number of taps in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties increased 26% from 2005 to 2010 and is still growing. In 2016, the NNY entrepreneurial spirit put one young NNY maple producer on “*Shark Tank*,” while another is opening a new maple-influenced winery. The farmers who guide the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program are pleased to be helping NNY realize its true maple industry potential.



### Enhancing Sap & Syrup Production

In 2008-2009, the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program connected the landowners of untapped maples on private property with NNY sugarmakers looking for trees to tap to grow their syrup capacity to meet the increasing demand for maple products. Approximately, 7,000 landowners received information and more than 80 media reports highlighted the regional opportunity, prompting calls to NNY Maple Specialist Dr. Michael Farrell from a large landholding company, and smaller landowners, willing to lease land to producers for tapping.

#### Quick Facts about the Farmer-Driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program

- Farmer-identified, prioritized and selected small grants for research & technical assistance
- 100 NNY farmers, including maple producers, provide program input
- Program Co-Chairs: Jon Greenwood, Joe Giroux, and Jon Rulfs
- Practical, on-farm, real-world results meet critical needs and maximize opportunities across all agricultural sectors
- Serving Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence counties
- Results often help farmers elsewhere in New York State and the Northeastern U.S.
- Producers may submit project ideas to Program Coordinator Michele Ledoux:  
mell14@cornell.edu, 315-376-5270
- Find project results and more information online: [www.nnyagdev.org](http://www.nnyagdev.org)

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