



## Northern New York Agricultural Development Program News



*Maple syrup at Uihlein Maple Research Forest, Lake Placid, NY*

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### **NNY Agricultural Development Program Posts Latest Maple Research Paper**

Northern New York -- The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program has posted the results of its latest maple research project focused on increasing sap yields and profitability for regional maple producers.

From 2011-2013, project leaders Northern New York Maple Specialist Michael Farrell, director of the Cornell Uihlein Maple Research Forest at Lake Placid, NY, and retired Cornell Maple Program Director Brian Chabot evaluated the effectiveness of a relatively inexpensive changeout of equipment to improve sap gain in three Northern New York sugarbushes.

More than 200 producers have attended workshops to hear the latest data from the "Increasing Sap Yields and Profitability in Maple Sugaring Operations Through Optimum Dropline/Spout Management" project. Data collected during the 2011, 2012 and 2013 maple seasons show that while the use of new droplines and spouts produces excellent sap yields, it may not produce the highest profit; however, producers are losing income if they use only old droplines and spouts.

In one 3,000-tap research area at the Parker Family Maple Farm in West Chazy, old spouts and droplines were utilized as a control method in the first-year of the research study. The data analysis showed more than \$12,000 in potential profit from unrealized sap yield in that sugarbush area in 2011. New spouts and droplines were installed in 2012 and this sugarbush then yielded the highest production per tap of the Parker's eight sugarbushes that year; however, another one of the eight sugarbushes produced

the highest profit as it achieved nearly as high yields by only replacing the spout and not the entire one-year-old dropline.

“We believe that replacing droplines that are more than four years old will increase sap yields enough to offset the labor and material costs of replacement, and it is well-known that sugarmakers will get a big boost in sap yield by replacing droplines every year. What future research will address is determining the optimum interval for replacing droplines to achieve the highest net return versus cost,” Farrell says.

“Our goal is to help commercial maple operations across this major maple-producing region that has very different environments,” Chabot says. “Since tubing systems require a lot of plastic, and are expensive and time consuming to install, producers need the best approaches for maintaining high sap yields without extensive investment in new tubing materials. This Northern New York Agricultural Development Program research offers insight for optimizing yield while potentially minimizing the cost of replacing equipment.”

Research data for this maple production project was collected from 2011-2013 at fifth-generation Parker Family Maple Farm in West Chazy, and in 2013 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County Extension Learning Farm in Canton and Uihlein Maple Research Forest in Lake Placid.

The full report is posted on the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program website at [www.nnyagdev.org](http://www.nnyagdev.org).



*Members of the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Maple Subcommittee met in January 2014 to discuss the results of NNYADP-funded maple production research and to identify current industry needs and priorities. Left to right: Dean Yancey, Maple Mountain Sweets, Lowville, Lewis County; Jeff Jenness, Orebed Sugar Shack, DeKalb Junction, St. Lawrence County; researcher Brian Chabot, Haskell Yancey of Yancey’s Sugarbush, Croghan, Lewis County; and Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County Executive Director Michele Ledoux. Other committee members include maple producers Jen Parker and Jeremy Youngmann of Clinton County, Tony Corwin in Essex County, and Kenneth Tupper in St. Lawrence County.*