Department of Agriculture and Markets (/)

COVID-19 UPDATES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW (https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus)

MARCH 8, 2021 | MALTA, NY

Agriculture Commissioner Promotes Maple Industry With First Maple Tapping of the Season

Encourages New Yorkers to Support Maple Producers Throughout the State

ShopTasteNY Offering 50% Off Select Maple Products Online This Month, Taste NY Markets Hosting Special Giveaway Contest for Gift Basket Filled with Maple Products

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball will join the Upper Hudson Maple Producers Association (UHMPA) for the first maple tapping of the season at Sugar Oak Farms in Malta on March 12, 2021 to promote New York's maple producers. While Maple Weekends celebrations are not officially taking place across New York this year as they traditionally do, many maple farms are still hosting open houses following COVID-19 guidelines and providing opportunities to purchase maple products online or through curbside pickup. Commissioner Ball is also encouraging New Yorkers to support the maple industry by buying maple products online at ShopTasteNY.com (https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=7f4b95f4-20d0acd0-7f496cc1-000babd9f8b3-e4ef0729d544e863&

q=1&e=ad111b26-2f2e-418c-b8fe-2add012b95aa&u=https%3A%2F%2Fshoptasteny.com%2F) and at any of the State's many Taste NY Markets.

Commissioner Ball said, "Maple season is finally underway and the sap is already flowing in many parts of the State. Although it has been a challenging year for all of us, I'm proud of the way the agricultural industry has adapted. All season, maple producers are working hard to provide delicious maple products for all to enjoy and many of them are hosting Maple Weekend activities, following COVID-19 guidelines to ensure a safe visit. I encourage New Yorkers to find a nearby, local producer that is offering visitors a safe and socially distanced opportunity to get outdoors, learn more about the industry, and bring home some of the sweet maple treats that New York State is known for."

Maple Events in March

From educational demonstrations to maple sugaring tours that will operate at reduced capacity, families can celebrate agriculture's first crop of the season by finding events closest to them on the NYS Maple Producers Association's website at https://nysmaple.com/buy-local/ (https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=6c5a2896-33c111b2-6c58d1a3-000babd9f8b3-a5bc7518164354ea&q=1&e=ad111b26-2f2e-418c-b8fe-2add012b95aa&u=https%3A%2F%2Fnysmaple.com%2Fbuy-local%2F) . People are encouraged to call ahead and check with their local producers to ensure that they are open. Additionally, many producers are selling their products online or for curbside pickup.

Commissioner Ball will visit Sugar Oak Farms for an annual maple tree tapping to highlight New York's maple industry and the maple producers participating in the New York State Grown & Certified program. More than 70 maple producers participate in the New York State Grown & Certified program, which verifies New York's agricultural producers and growers who adhere to food safety and environmental sustainability standards. A current list of maple producers who are a part of the New York State Grown & Certified program can be found here

(https://certified.ny.gov/wheretobuy) .

Maple Promotions

In addition, the State's Taste NY Markets and stores will be celebrating all things maple, all month long. Consumers can visit a store to find their favorite syrups, maple candies—including cotton candy—creams, lattes and other specialty barista beverages, and more. Each Taste NY Market at the New York State Welcome Centers is taking entries for a special giveaway at the end of the month – a gift basket stocked with maple and other market goodies. Visit taste.ny.gov (https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=9401a325-cb9a9a01-94035a10-000babd9f8b3-0deefd1defd153fd&q=1&e=51373ffa-b15b-4ff0-beb9-90146e8eb112&u=http%3A%2F%2Fr20.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D0018juY7VEJoSac7ouOv DWgyVrGe1Ck7R11cyJ0seFi94RsyZCskp7ekP8Quu6KNBwc%3D%26c%3DwgPd9-PWHofcUpsTystl09HBFXLvPfTOQ8HMaIJwnh8hcdlqh-HBZA%3D%3D%26ch%3DfSMC19xwrudpO-UbiX5hibbTXwzN_XHz0b2UE6qhqDcRJ8JUTAKqeQ%3D%3D) to find a market near you.

ShopTasteNY.com (https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=86cccea1-d957f785-86ce3794-000babd9f8b3-0e13747e371f59cc&q=1&e=ad111b26-2f2e-418c-b8fe-2add012b95aa&u=https%3A%2F%2Fshoptasteny.com%2F) is also promoting New York maple producers this month, with a special promotion offering 50% off on select maple products throughout this month. ShopTasteNY allows consumers to shop for New York agricultural products and gifts from the comfort of their own

home.

Executive Director of the New York State Maple Producers Association Helen Thomas said, “It has been a challenging year for our maple industry, but as our producers begin the process of making nature’s original sweetener, we are looking forward to celebrating the season. With many of our producers hosting small Maple Weekend events and activities in the spirit of maple season, families will still have an opportunity to safely enjoy the long-time tradition of visiting a sugarhouse and learn about the process of making maple syrup.”

UHMPA President David Campbell said, "We're happy to have Commissioner Ball there to help kick off maple season at Sugar Oak Farms. It looks like the sap will be flowing well. As always, the maple producers in the Upper Hudson Region are hoping for a great crop. Many local producers will be open, following COVID-19 guidelines, so consumers should check with them about how to support them and get their favorite fresh maple products."

Erich Ruger, Owner of Sugar Oak Farms, said, "We are honored to welcome Commissioner Ball to our sugar house! As producers of New York's first agricultural crop of the year, we are excited to share our harvest with the Commissioner and the public. We've got some great maple treats, and visitors can safely check out some socially distanced demonstrations and take a tour of our sugarbush."

Department of Agriculture and Markets

About Us

Accessibility

Alerts

Careers

Contact Us

Disclaimer

Divisions

FOIL

Funding

Language Access

Laws & Regulations

Pressroom

Privacy Policy

Reports

Site Map

CONNECT WITH US

Translation Services

This page is available in other languages

English

Español

中
文

Русский

יידיש

বাঙালি

한
국
어

Kreyòl
Ayisyen

Italiano

العربية

Polski

Français

اردو

Translate