

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT Part A**FRUIT, NUTS, AND SPECIALTY CROPS****Substantive Change****OMB No. 0535-0039**

This substantive change is being submitted as a supplemental supporting statement to the Fruit, Nuts, and Specialty Crops docket. This document identifies changes made to the Maple Syrup Survey that will be conducted starting in May 2023.

The proposed changes were presented and discussed at length at the International Maple Syrup Conference in October 2022. There were industry members from all states in the National Agricultural Statistics Service estimating program present at the conference. The International Maple Syrup Institute created a working group from their membership that was instrumental in bringing the industry's concerns to NASS' attention with suggestions to improve the Maple dataseries and resulting questionnaire. Specific individuals involved are noted in Item 8.

The changes from the already approved questionnaire include:

Removal of the French Version

The version in French was no longer used as it contained different questions than the English version and resulted in a non-standardized data being collected. The data collection plan will be developed to obtain response from producers previously requiring the French version.

Questions Removed

Question 1 – The “No” followup question.

3 No - 1a. Do you intend to set any taps in the future?

⁰⁰⁶ 1 Yes 3 No 2 Don't Know

Questions 5 and 6:

5. a. What was the first date sap was collected and boiled for the 2020 season on your operation?
 Date:

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 012 | MM | DD | YYYY |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
- b. What was the last date sap was collected and boiled for the 2020 season on your operation?.....
 Date:

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 013 | MM | DD | YYYY |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
6. Please enter any comments about weather conditions, quality, etc., during the 2020 season.

Question 7:

7. Did this operation sell any 2019 crop production as RETAIL?

- ⁰¹⁸ 1 Yes - (Continue) 3 No - (Go to item 9)

7b:

b. Of the 2019 crop production, please provide the size, number, and average price of all RETAIL containers sold:

RETAIL 2019 CROP

| Container Size | Number of Containers Sold (2019 CROP) | Average Price Per Container (2019 CROP) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Gallon | 319 | 105 \$ ____ . ____ |
| Half-Gallon | 106 | 107 \$ ____ . ____ |
| Quart | 108 | 109 \$ ____ . ____ |
| Pint | 110 | 111 \$ ____ . ____ |
| Half-Pint | 201 | 202 \$ ____ . ____ |
| 3.4 oz (100 ml) | 315 | 316 \$ ____ . ____ |
| 8.5 oz (250 ml) | 331 | 332 \$ ____ . ____ |
| 12 oz (355 ml) | 355 | 320 \$ ____ . ____ |
| Other Sizes ³⁵⁶ _____ ml | 343 | 344 \$ ____ . ____ |
| Other Sizes ³⁵⁷ _____ ml | 347 | 348 \$ ____ . ____ |
| Other Sizes ³⁵⁸ _____ ml | 351 | 352 \$ ____ . ____ |

Question 8:

8. Of the 2021 crop production, how many gallons of syrup were used by this operation to make processed or value added products for RETAIL sale?

INCLUDE

- granulated sugar, maple cotton, maple sugar pieces, ice cream, etc.
- only syrup produced by this operation

EXCLUDE bottled sap.

None Gallons
for Retail

⁰³¹ 3 OR

| |
|----------------|
| ⁰⁴¹ |
|----------------|

Question 9:

9. Did this operation sell any 2019 crop production as WHOLESale?

EXCLUDE production sold as Bulk Wholesale (5 gallon containers or larger).

019 1 Yes - (Continue) 3 No - (Go to item 11)

9b:

b. Of the 2019 crop production, please provide the size, number, and average price of all WHOLESale containers sold:

WHOLESale 2019 CROP

Exclude production sold as Bulk Wholesale. (5 gallon containers or larger)

| Container Size | Number of Containers Sold (2019 CROP) | Average Price per Container (2019 CROP) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Gallon | 203 | 204 \$ _____ |
| Half-Gallon | 205 | 206 \$ _____ |
| Quart | 207 | 208 \$ _____ |
| Pint | 209 | 210 \$ _____ |
| Half-Pint | 301 | 302 \$ _____ |
| 3.4 oz (100ml) | 317 | 318 \$ _____ |
| 8.5 oz (250 ml) | 333 | 334 \$ _____ |
| 12 oz (355ml) | 321 | 322 \$ _____ |
| Other Sizes ³⁵⁹ _____ ml | 345 | 346 \$ _____ |
| Other Sizes ³⁶⁰ _____ ml | 349 | 350 \$ _____ |
| Other Sizes ³⁶¹ _____ ml | 353 | 354 \$ _____ |

Question 10:

10. Of the 2021 crop production, how many gallons of syrup were used by this operation to make processed or value added products for WHOLESale?

INCLUDE

- granulated sugar, maple cotton, maple sugar pieces, ice cream, etc.
- only syrup produced by this operation

EXCLUDE bottled sap.

None 033 OR Gallons for Wholesale 043

11. Did this operation sell any 2019 crop production as BULK WHOLESale?

038 1 Yes - (Continue) 3 No - (Go to item 12)

a. Of the 2019 crop production, please provide the number of pounds sold and the average price per pound sold as BULK WHOLESale by grade:

BULK WHOLESale 2019 CROP

| Grade and Color | BULK WHOLESale Sold (2019 CROP) | Average Price per Pound (2019 CROP) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Grade A Golden Delicate | 303 | 304 \$ _____.____ |
| Grade A Amber Rich | 305 | 306 \$ _____.____ |
| Grade A Dark Robust | 307 | 308 \$ _____.____ |
| Grade A Very Dark Strong | 309 | 310 \$ _____.____ |
| Processing Grade | 311 | 312 \$ _____.____ |

Questions Modified

Question 1: Revision of the “include” statement from “taps set on trees owned by you, leased from others, or tapped rent-free” to “taps set on trees on your operation, regardless of whether you owned the land”. Answering yes directs to continue the survey, no directs to survey conclusion.

Maple Production Questions are revised from:

2019 and 2020 Production Data

2. In 2019 and 2020, how many taps were set for collecting maple sap on trees owned by you, leased from others, or tapped rent-free?
EXCLUDE taps leased to others..... Taps

| Last Year - 2019 | This Year - 2020 |
|------------------|------------------|
| 004 | 003 |

3. In 2019 and 2020, how many gallons of syrup were produced at your sugarhouse?
INCLUDE Syrup produced by this operation from sap purchased from others.
If none, go to Item 5..... Gallons

| Last Year - 2019 | This Year - 2020 |
|------------------|------------------|
| 002 | 001 |

4. In 2020, what was the average amount of sap required to produce one gallon of syrup?

| Gallons | OR | Sugar Content Percentage |
|---------|----|--------------------------|
| 009 | | 600 _____.____ |

To

2022 and 2023 Production Data

| | Last Year - 2022 | This Year - 2023 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| 2. In 2022 and 2023, how many taps were set for collecting maple sap on trees owned by you, leased from others, or tapped rent-free? EXCLUDE taps leased to others..... Taps | 004 | 003 |
| 3. In 2022 and 2023, on how many acres were your maple taps set?..... Acres | xxx | xxx |
| 4. In 2022 and 2023, how many gallons of syrup were produced by your operation? INCLUDE syrup made from your sap, and purchased sap..... Gallons | 002 | 001 |
| 5. In 2022 and 2023, how many gallons of syrup were used to make value-added products like sugar, maple cream, maple candy, etc.?..... Gallons | xxx | xxx |
| 6. In 2022 and 2023, approximately how many gallons of sap were needed to make one gallon of syrup?..... Gallons | xxx | 009 |

Maple Sales Questions will now be:

2022 UNPROCESSED SAP PURCHASED AND SOLD

| | Gallons | Average \$/gal |
|---|---------|----------------|
| 7. In 2022, how many gallons of unprocessed sap did you PURCHASE from other producers, and what was the average price per gallon paid?..... | xxx | xxx |
| 8. In 2022, how many gallons of unprocessed sap did you SELL to other producers, and what was the average price per gallon recieved?..... | 045 | xxx |

2022 SYRUP SOLD

9. From the 2022 crop production, how much syrup was sold; and what was the average price received, for the following methods?

INCLUDE only syrup produced by this operation during the 2022 crop year.
EXCLUDE syrup purchased from another producer and re-sold.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|-----|
| a. Retail..... Gallons | 040 | Avg. \$/gal | xxx |
| b. Wholesale (packaged products)..... Gallons | 042 | Avg. \$/gal | xxx |
| c. Bulk wholesale (barrels, drums, or containers larger than 5 gallons)..... Pounds | 044 | Avg. \$/lb | xxx |

10. Of the 2022 crop production, how many gallons were sold as Grade A (of any color), and how many gallons were sold as processing grade?

| | Gallons of Grade A | Gallons of Processing Grade |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCLUDE all syrup sold at retail, wholesale, and bulk wholesale..... | xxx | xxx |

11. In 2023, were your maple products certified organic according to USDA standards?..... ^{xxx} 1 Yes 3 No

In addition, one new item has been added that is not a question, but rather is instructions how the respondent may access survey results when available.

12. To receive the complete results of this survey on the release date, go to: nass.usda.gov/results

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Circumstances making collection of information necessary.

NASS is requesting a substantive change to the Maple Syrup survey for the 2023. Various members of the Maple Industry approached United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service with suggestions to improve the Maple dataseries and resulting questionnaire. Specific individuals involved are noted in Item 8.

There are no other changes to the circumstances making collection of information necessary.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose information is to be used.

There are no changes to the list of potential people who use the data collected by the Maple Syrup Survey. The addition, deletion, and changes of questions will help maple syrup producers and industry experts make informed decisions. The French version of the Maple Syrup questionnaire has been discontinued due to the lack of usefulness.

3. Use of improved information technology.

There are no changes from the original approval related to information technology.

4. Efforts to identify duplication.

There are no changes from the original approval related to duplication reduction.

5. Methods to minimize burden of small businesses.

There are no changes from the original approval related to minimizing burden of small business.

6. Consequence if information collection were less frequent.

There are no changes to the frequency of these surveys that was originally approved.

7. Special circumstances.

No special circumstances are associated with this information collection.

8. Federal register notice and consultation with outside persons.

Input for the questions to be updated and removed were provided by the following:

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9. Payments or gifts to respondents.

No payments or gifts will be given to respondents.

10. Confidentiality provided to respondents.

Questionnaires include a statement that individual reports are confidential. 44 U.S. Code Chapter 35; and Public Law 115-435, Title III (CIPSEA) provide for confidentiality of reported information. All employees of NASS and all enumerators hired and supervised under a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) must read the regulations and sign a statement of compliance.

Additionally, NASS employees and NASS contractors comply with the OMB implementation guidance document, "Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)." CIPSEA supports NASS's pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents, subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

11. Questions of a sensitive nature.

No questions of a sensitive nature will be asked.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated.

The Maple Syrup Survey is estimated to take 10 minutes to completed, which is unchanged. There are no changes to the sample size or number of responses for the maple surveys. As a result, there are no changes to the burden that was originally approved.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.

There is no cost burden to respondents.

14. Annualized costs to federal government.

There are no changes from the original approval related to annualized costs to the federal government.

15. Reasons for changes in burden.

There are no changes from the current approval related to burden.

16. Tabulation, analysis, and publication plans.

The Maple Syrup Survey Publication Changes are listed below:

1. Data to be discontinued:
 - Date season opened
 - Date season closed(Calculations based on reported data)

- Average season length
 - Average season opened
 - Average season closed
 - Retail Price:
 - o Gallon
 - o Half gallon
 - o Quart
 - o Pint
 - o Half Pint
 - Wholesale Price:
 - o Gallon
 - o Half gallon
 - o Quart
 - o Pint
 - o Half pint
2. New data series based on the new data being collected:
- Acres of trees that maple taps were set.
 - Gallons and price of maple unprocessed maple sap purchased from others.
 - Gallons and price of maple unprocessed maple sap sold to others.
 - Average price of maple syrup sold retail on a gallon basis
 - Average price of maple syrup sold wholesale on a gallon basis

The Maple Syrup Survey result will continue to be published in the June Crop Production Report.

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/tm70mv177>

17. Request for approval of non-display of expiration date.

There is no request for approval of non-display of the expiration date.

18. Exceptions to certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

February 2023