



2019 Ohio Maple Days Workshops Questionnaire Summary

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The 2019 Ohio Maple Days Workshops (OMD) held January 17, 18, 19 in Morrow, Holmes, and Geauga Counties were attended by 246 maple syrup producers from 42 of Ohio’s 88 counties (42%) and four (4) States were represented (OH, MI, PA, VT). The Morrow County workshop had the highest statewide representation with 25 different counties represented, while the Holmes workshop had 18 counties represented, and 8 different counties were represented at the Geauga County workshop. A questionnaire was distributed to each participant (N=246) and 61% (n=151) of those returned were usable. Of the 151 surveys returned Holmes County had the highest return rate of 70% handed out. Morrow County saw 53% returned and Geauga County had a 62% return rate. The following results are based off the number of responses to several questions. **Note:** *The data presented should not be associated to the physical geographic location of the workshops as producers travel from all over the state to the three meetings not necessarily the one located closest to them.*

Participants at the 2019 OMD were asked to rate how the Ohio Maple Days Workshops meet their needs for maple syrup production information. This series of questions were also asked for a five-year period between 2010 to 2014 and the results for this five-year period are indicated at the end of the table. The results indicate that the workshops have increased at “Greatly Meets” and “Meets” the needs, and stayed even at “Well Meets” the needs of the participants. Respondents were to indicate if they recommend the Ohio Maple Days Workshops to others. Overall 89% indicated yes, which would help to indicate their satisfaction with and value received from the programming.

How Would You Rate The Ohio Maple Days Programs At Meeting Your Needs?					2010-2014 Results
Level Needs Are Meet	Morrow	Holmes	Gauga	Combined Totals	Combined Totals
	% of total	% of total	% of total	Average	Average
Greatly Meets	40%	33%	45%	39%	29%
Well Meets	50%	47%	43%	46%	46%
Meets	8%	7%	7%	7%	16%
Somewhat Meets	0%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Doesn't Meet	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Recommend OMD to Others	90%	85%	91%	89%	na

Monetary Impact

Participants were asked if they have used the information received at the workshops. They were also asked to choose a monetary value of savings the information had on their maple operation. Overwhelmingly 90% indicated they used knowledge gained from the workshops. With 76% indicated yes, they saved money with only 5% indicating they had not saved money with knowledge gained. The remaining 19% did not indicate either way. This series of questions were also asked between 2010-2014 and those results are represented at the end of the table. Comparing the data sets would indicate the program continues to provide cost savings.

Have You Gained Knowledge And Saved Money & Approximately How Much?					2010-2014
	Morrow	Holmes	Gauga	Totals	Results
Yes to Used Knowledge	98%	82%	93%	90%	na
No to Used Knowledge	0%	5%	4%	3%	na
Yes, Saved Money	83%	65%	82%	76%	73%
\$100 to \$500	38%	22%	27%	28%	18%
\$500 to \$1,000	20%	16%	23%	20%	9%
\$1,000 to \$3,000	18%	7%	14%	13%	5%
More Than \$3,000	13%	7%	11%	10%	3%
Average Savings per Respondent	\$11,325	\$10,000	\$17,500	\$12,942	na



Since 2003 OSU Extension has offered to test attendees maple syrup hydrometers for free to assure they are accurate for the upcoming maple season. This is critical as an inaccurate hydrometer reading can cost producers \$400 for every 33 gallons of syrup made. In 2019, 257 hydrometers were tested for accuracy. The range of hydrometers checked each year is 190 to 210, with many participants bringing more than one to be tested. Participants were asked to indicate if they took advantage of this free hydrometer testing. Overall, 62% indicated they have taken advantage and 26% indicated they have not used the service. Geauga County had the highest percent indicating to using the service and the numbers tested at that location verifies this.

Have You Taken Advantage Of The Free Hydrometer Testing?				
	Morrow	Holmes	Geauga	Combined Total
	<i>% of total</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Indicated YES	58%	53%	73%	62%
Indicated NO	33%	24%	23%	26%

Program Longevity

A programs ability to keep having returning participants is an indication of value in the information and materials provided at the program. This question has been asked for many years to learn if the workshops are retaining attendees for more than a year or two. The overall average of years in attendance was 9 years with the longest attendance record was 50 years.

Approximate Number Of Years Attending Ohio Maple Days		
	Average years of attendance	Highest year of attendance
Morrow	9	50
Holmes	7	40
Geauga	12	42

Increased Taps In Production

Attendees indicated that 181,953 taps were represented at the three meetings. Geauga County had the highest number of taps represented over the three days with 77,734 taps. Over the three days of workshops it was also indicated that 43,145 new taps had been installed in the last 5 years with the Holmes County meeting recording the largest number of new taps at 17,747. The average taps and new taps per respondent are also indicated in the table.

Taps Reported At All Three Workshops						
	Taps Reported	Largest Operation Reported	Average Taps Per Producer	New Taps In Last 5 Years	Average New Taps Per Producer	Percent (%) Taps Over Three Workshops
Morrow	30,926	5,000	814	10,933	377	17%
Holmes	73,293	8,000	1,496	17,747	592	40%
Geauga	77,734	10,500	1,413	14,465	467	43%
Totals	181,953	10,500	1,241	43,145	478	--

Maple producers are supposed to report production to United States Department of Agricultural-National Agricultural Statistical Service (USDA-NASS) if surveyed. In 2019, 45% of attendees indicated they reported to NASS with 48% not reporting. NASS reports that less than half respond to their surveys and they estimated that producers under estimate production by as much as 50% due to field checking of data received. **With 181,953 taps represented from just 61% of attendees over the three (3) days of workshops, would indicate that 45% of the 2018 maple taps reported by NASS (N=400,000) were in attendance at the 2019 workshops.** However due to low reporting numbers NASS has stopped recording maple production in Ohio and five other States starting with the 2019 maple season. This is a tragic loss to the Ohio maple industry as it is the only method to track production trends, as producers do not have to register to produce this source of food. Ohio maple production numbers since 1840 and production within the 88 counties are available at: holmes.osu.edu/maple