

Ohio Maple Syrup Industry at a Glance

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Production:

In 1840 during the 6th U.S. Census and the first agricultural census Ohio ranked as the 2nd highest producer in pounds of maple sugar (approximately 6.4 million pounds or 582,000 gallons). Today, Ohio typically ranks as the 4th to 5th largest producer of maple syrup in the United States producing approximately 100,000 gallons or 1.1 million pounds.
(Approximately 11 pounds of sugar per gallon of syrup)

Producers:

The definitive number of producers is not known, but a conservative estimate in between 1,000 to 1,200 producers are scattered across Ohio's forest landscape. During a 2005 research project conducted on the Ohio maple industry (Graham 2005), producers were found in 69 of the 88 counties. The highest concentration of production is located in the maple belt stretching from Ashtabula County to Holmes County encompassing a 12 county area. However these results were just from those who responded to the research.

Producer Demographics:

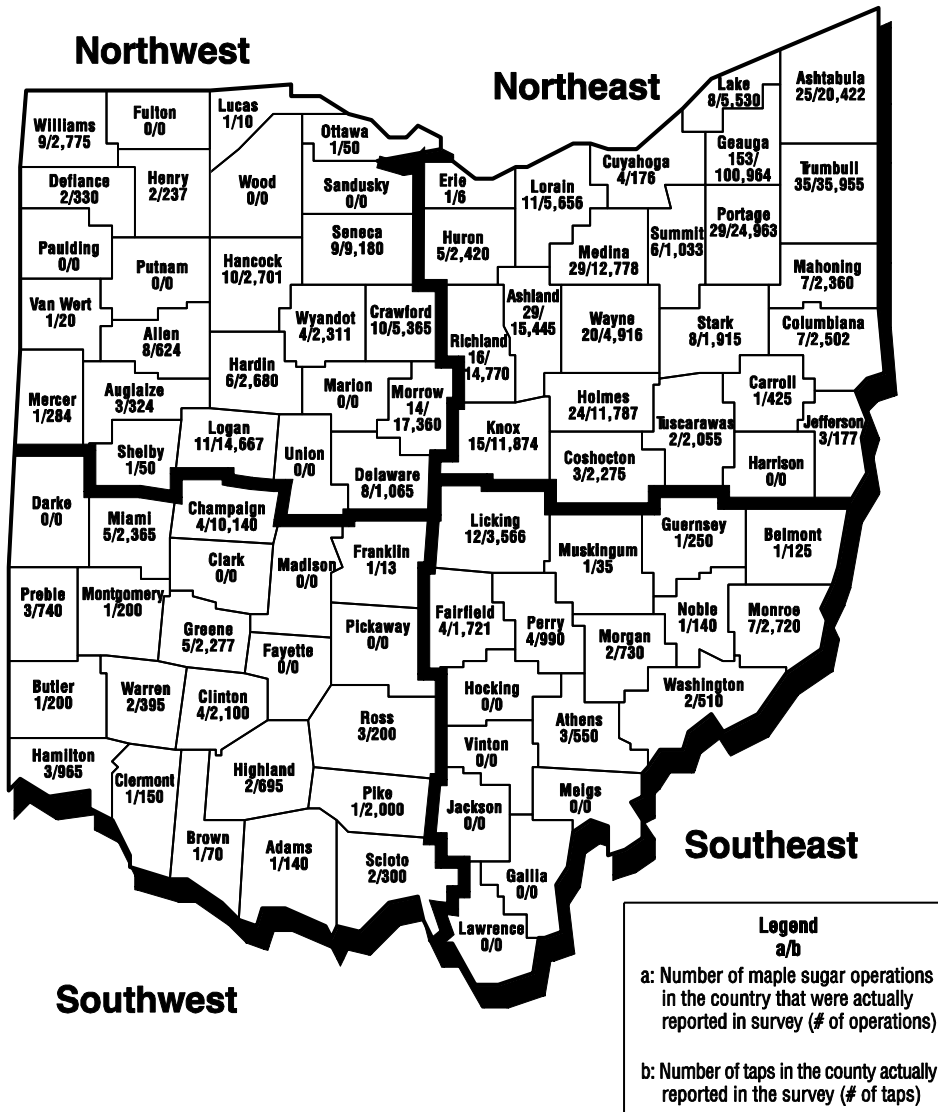
The 2005 research indicated the 27% of all respondents (N = 620) were of English heritage and the remaining were of Amish heritage (Graham et al. 2007). The average producer was a 53 year old, second generation producer who had been making syrup for 19 years. The majority (60%) of producers indicated their occupation as either farmer/agribusiness or technical/trade related jobs. Only 3% of responders indicated they were full time maple producers. Ninety percent of respondent indicated their sugaring operation were family owned enterprises.

Operation Size:

The research also indicated that there were approximately 375,000 taps in Ohio, with 78% in bucket collection systems and 22% in tubing collection systems. The average size operation had a sugarbush of 27 acres with an average bucket operation having 417 taps with a range of 4 to 5,000 taps. In tubing operations the average size was 720 taps with a size range of 12 to 6,500 taps.

Ohio State University Extension:

OSU Extension has been serving the Ohio maple industry for over 90 years by providing current maple related research based educational programming. The annual Ohio Maple Days workshops conducted by OSU Extension are rated as the top source producers utilize to keep current in the ever changing production technology in the maple industry (Graham et al. 2006). In 2007 OSU Extension published the Second edition of the North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual (Heiligmann, Koelling, and Perkins 2006) recognized as the most current resource on maple production. Today, OSU Extension continues to serve the Ohio Maple Industry by providing educational programming and applied research projects to help the industry. The demand for pure Ohio Maple syrup far exceeds the current production and current producers and those interested in producing are encouraged to increase taps and production as the market is at an all time high.



Number of maple syrup producers and taps reported by County within the Ohio maple syrup industry research project.

References:

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