

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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FIRST-EVER MOUNTAIN STATE MAPLE DAY CELEBRATES BURGEONING WV INDUSTRY

Charleston, W.Va. – All things maple take center stage March 19, 2016. It's Mountain State Maple Day, a time to celebrate the growing number of businesses tapping into a sweet resource. Generations of state residents have turned sweet water (also known as sap) into maple products for their own use. However, over the past decade, it's gone from a cottage industry to a money-maker for more than 30 business owners.

In 2015, 45,000 taps were installed across West Virginia. Thousands of gallons of sweet water were turned into maple products and sold around the globe. From maple syrup to candy to sugar, West Virginians are getting creative with the products they sell.

On March 19, 15 maple producers and their partners from all across West Virginia will open their doors to the public. You'll have a chance to see how the sweet water is harvested and turned into marketable products. You can sample the goodness, sit down for a maple meal, and purchase your favorite maple merchandise. The WV Maple Syrup Festival in Grant County is also taking place on March 19. For more information on Mountain State Maple Day, log on to <http://www.agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/marketinganddevelopment/Pages/Spotlight-on-Agriculture.aspx>. To view a map of the maple syrup events near you, log on to <http://gotowv.com/maplesyrup/>

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