



2010 Crop Report

Following a banner crop like 2009, the 2010 crop had a tough act to follow. Once everything was sugared off though, it looks like Mother Nature cooperated and the 2010 crop will be enough to get us through to 2011.

The numbers below are estimates:

Quebec 90,000,000 lbs.

Rest of Canada 6,000,000 lbs.

United States 15,000,000 lbs

Carryover from 2009 16,000,000 lbs

With Worldwide demand of approximately 120,000,000 lbs, we should have an adequate supply.

The Southern producing regions had the lowest production. Southern New England, southern New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio were considerably below average. Some farmers 80 - 90% below. The primary reason being uncooperative weather. They just didn't get the freezing nights followed by warm days. That said, this region is a small piece of the total industry's production. The remaining producing areas did much better with average to slightly above average production.

Our own farm in Alstead, NH had an average year with nearly 250,000 lbs produced. This, from about 67,000 trees.

The technological improvements that we've had over the past 15 years, such as, improving the extraction of sap from trees has had a very positive impact. It's not uncommon for a farmer to have doubled the production he may have had 20 years ago and with the same number of trees. This technology also helps in years like this when there isn't a great difference of temperature from night to day. The 80 / 20 rule now applies to sugar makers in that 20% of the farmers produce 80% of the syrup. There are many farmers this year saying they had a bad crop but they tend to be on the low end of new technology use.

At our recent open house where farmers come to learn about new technologies, sell their syrup and talk maple, the discussion seemed to be about expansion and improvements. Farmers are seeing maple as a positive income source in a tough agricultural world. This bodes well for supply and the future growth of our industry.

Regards,

Arnold Coombs

Brown Family Farm

Coombs
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