

WHY MARCH IS OUR SWEETEST SEASON

PATTY RITCHIE March 22, 2011

If you are ever in the town of Hermon, just as the winter weather breaks, make it a point to visit Woody's Sugar Barn.

You'll see why New York State ranks second in the nation in Maple Syrup production and come away understanding how the people who make up the New York State Maple Producers Association are convinced we can eventually overtake our friends in Vermont and become number one.

Over the past few weeks, I have been visiting St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Oswego Counties to speak with some of the 90 small business owners producing Maple syrup. My husband and I spent a recent Saturday with Jim and Joan Woodrow who own Woody's Sugar Barn in the town of Hermon to kick off what I have always considered to be the sweetest season of the year.

The Woodrows combine the best of the old and new, combining the latest technological advances in Maple production at their family's picturesque barn that is decorated with a variety of antique agricultural implements.

As the chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I wanted to see how small business owners likes the Woodrows are creating a whole array of Maple products and creating new jobs at their family businesses.

Like a lot of Maple syrup producers, tapping Maple trees has been a family tradition for generations of the Woodrow family. But the Woodrows recognized the potential it offers and are working with other Maple producers to expand the business by bringing customers to their rustic production facility where they can see it being made and taste goodies like Maple spreads, cookies and, of course, syrup.

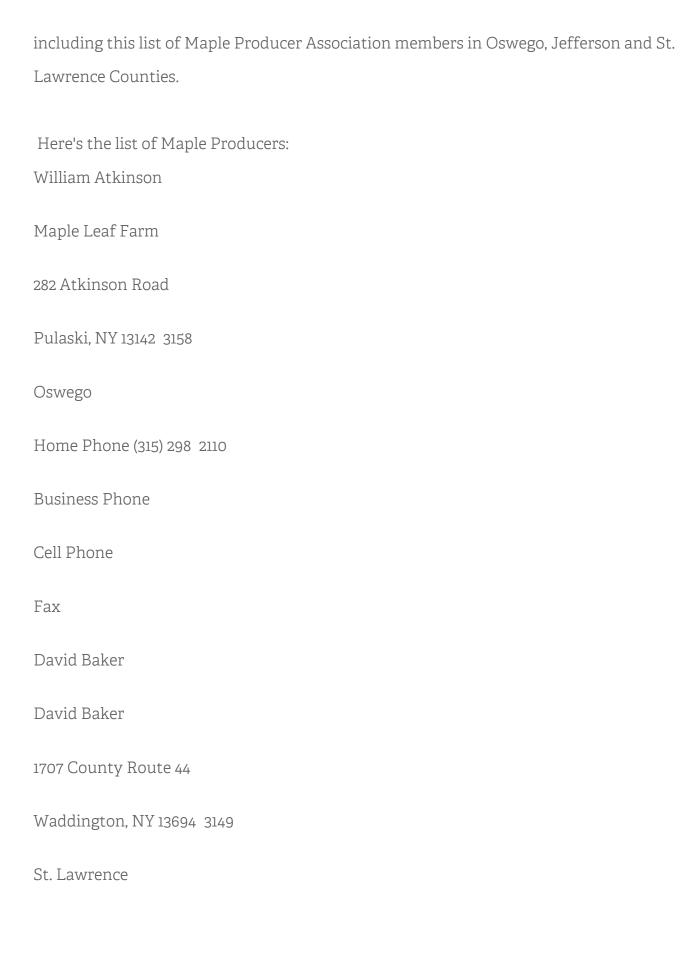
New York State has an estimated 289 million Maple trees, but only one percent are actually being tapped.

Ironically, we have nearly 200 million more Maple trees than Quebec, the world's leading maple syrup producer. But we actually tap 40 million fewer trees than Quebec. That's why our nation is actually importing this natural sweetener and Canada is actually producing 85 percent of the world's Maple syrup supply.

Just recently, I sponsored a bill to make it easier for the 500 Maple producers across the State to invite customers and groups to their sugar shacks by cutting cumbersome regulations that were preventing family farmers from sharing this rural tradition with visitors.

It's my job to stand up for our state's 36,000 family farms to keep bureaucrats from imposing foolish mandates that make it tougher for agribusinesses to grow and prosper.

I hope you'll see what our Maple Producers are doing in your county. That's why I'm



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| Garnet Beckstead |
| 24 Cogswell Corners Road |
| Madrid, NY 13660 3118 |
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| Scott Bonno |
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| Home Phone (315) 386 3035 |
| Business Phone |
| Cell Phone |
| Fax |
| Leroy Burnham |
| Beaver River Maple Supplies |
| 16695 Sandy Creek Valley Road |

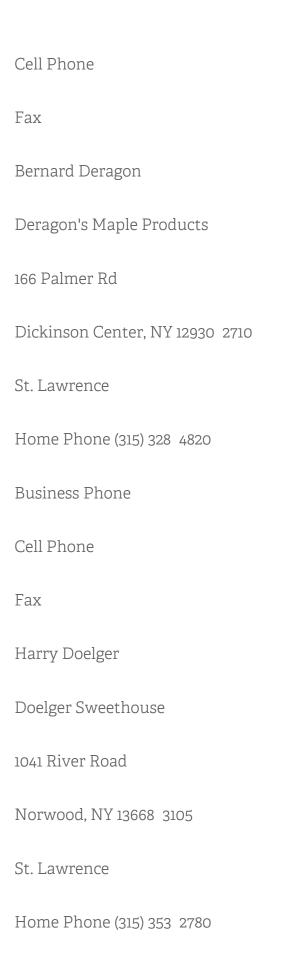


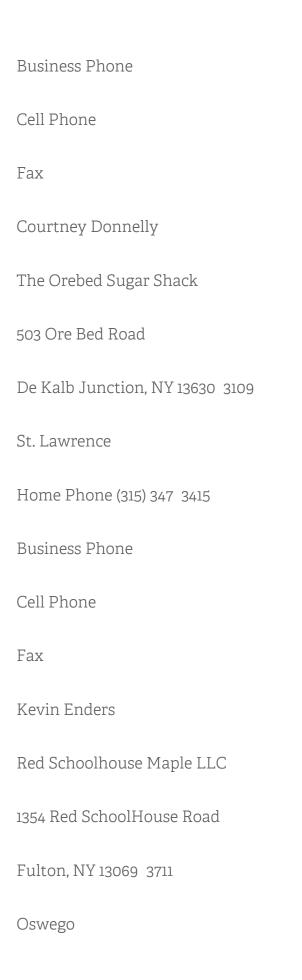
| 16661 Sandy Creek Valley Road |
|-------------------------------|
| Watertown, NY 13601 9356 |
| Jefferson |
| Home Phone (315) 778 9407 |
| Business Phone |
| Cell Phone |
| Fax |
| Harvey Burnham |
| Burnham's Pure Maple Syrup |
| 16661 Sandy Creek Valley Road |
| Watertown, NY 13601 9356 |
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| Robert Burnham |



| Reginald Chester |
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| Reginald & Mary Jean Chester maple |
| 8350 Cty Route 27 |
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| Hannibal, NY 13074 2329 |
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| Business Phone |



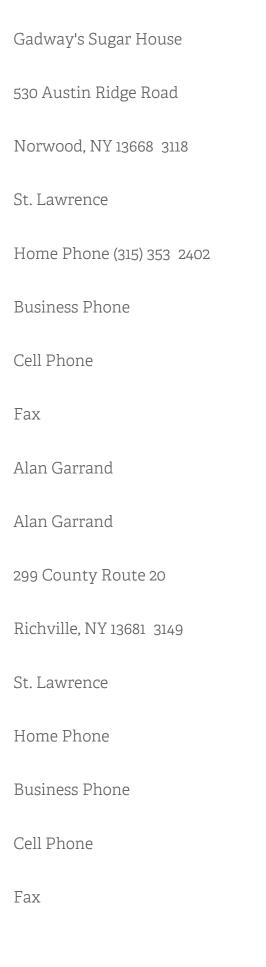


| Home Phone (315) 695 4491 |
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| Business Phone |
| Cell Phone |
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| Steven Fallon |
| Steven Fallon maple |
| 835 County Route 58 |
| Colton, NY 13625 3196 |
| St. Lawrence |
| Home Phone (315) 268 0316 |
| Business Phone |
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| Spencer Farr |
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| Janet Favro |
| Sugarbush Lane at Brick Chapel |
| 146 Barnes Road |
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| Home Phone (315) 386 3826 |
| Business Phone |
| Cell Phone |
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| Jim Finen |
| Fine n Dandy |
| 20 Antoniette St |

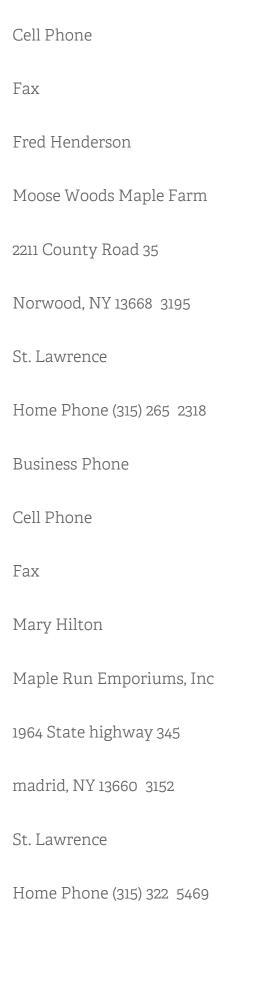
| Massena, NY 13662 4301 |
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| St. Lawrence |
| Home Phone |
| Business Phone |
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| Home Phone (315) 388 4149 |
| Business Phone |
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| Maxwell Fisher |
| Max's Maple Products |

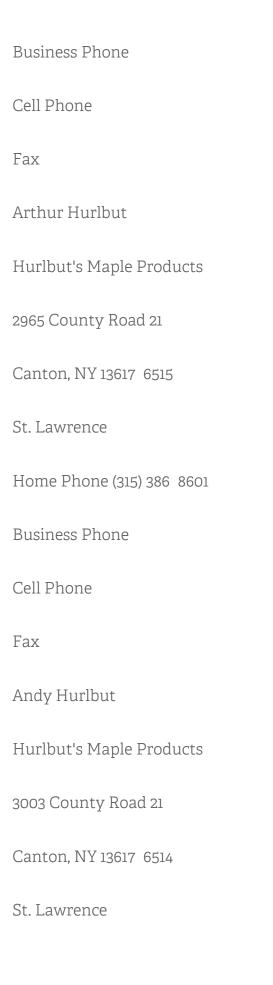




| Bryan Given |
|---------------------------|
| B.F. Given & Family Maple |
| 613 Blanchard Hill Road |
| Russell, NY 13684 3108 |
| St. Lawrence |
| Home Phone (315) 347 4291 |
| Business Phone |
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| Richard Hamilton |
| Trout Lake Maple |
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| Gary Hayden |
| Sticky Situations |
| 2523 County Road 176 |
| Fulton, NY 13069 4275 |
| Oswego |
| Home Phone (315) 592 7981 |
| Business Phone |



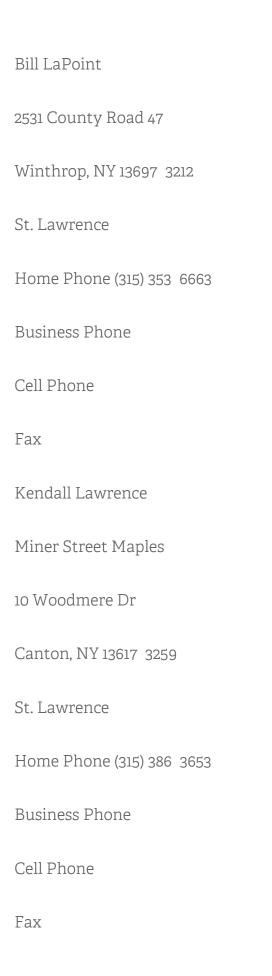


| Home Phone (315) 854 5381 |
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| Business Phone |
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| Gary Hurlbut |
| Maple Help Stock Farms |
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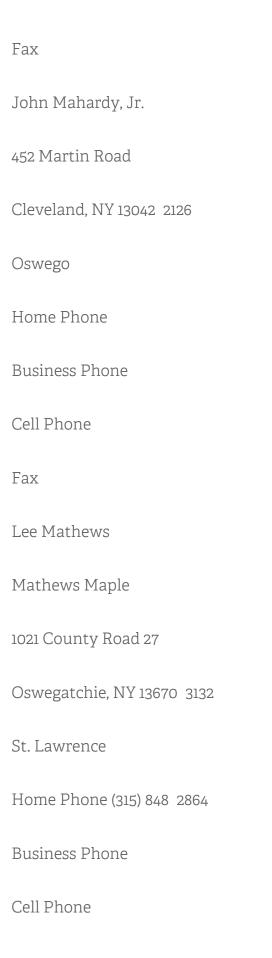
| Oswego |
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| Home Phone (315) 963 7558 |
| Business Phone |
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| Roger Hutchinson |
| Pierrepont Sugarworks |
| 4 OreBed Road |
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| Home Phone (315) 386 4795 |
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| Jeff Jenness |
| The Orebed Sugar Shack |
| 503 Ore Bed Road |

| De Kalb Junction, NY 13630 3109 |
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| St. Lawrence |
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| Jim Kenney |
| Breezy Maples Farm |
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| Home Phone (315) 705 6560 |
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| Michael Kenny |
| Sweeter Creations Sugar House |

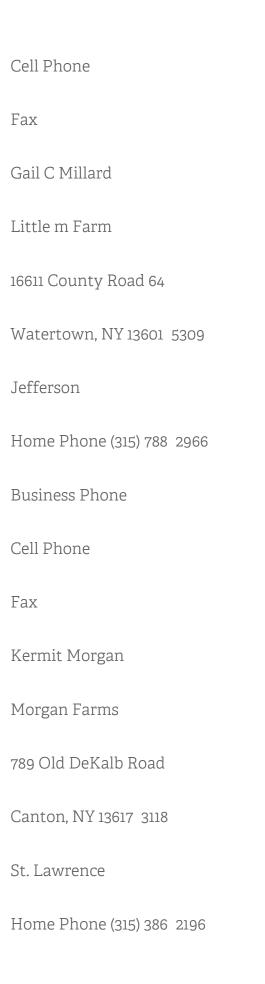
| 348 Pearson Road |
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| Jason King |
| Lazarus Sugar Shanty |
| 10518 County Route 152 |
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| Business Phone |
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| Fax |
| William LaPoint |

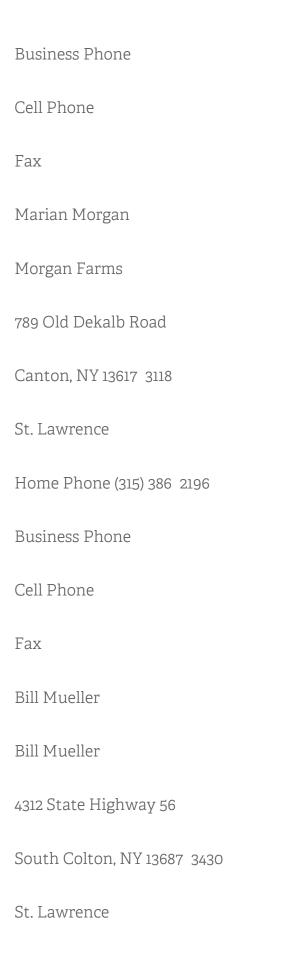


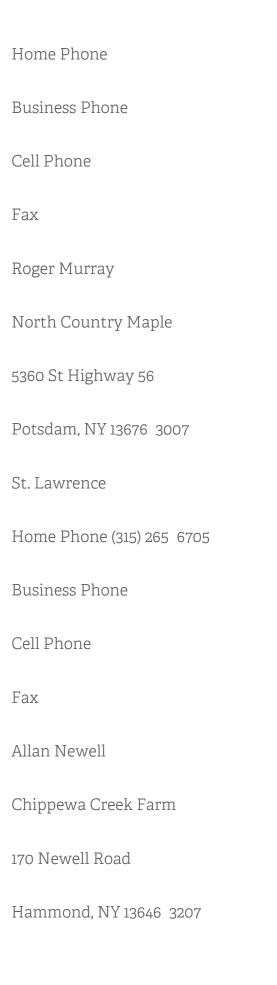
| Gordon Lewis |
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| Lewis Maple Farms |
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| L&S Maple |
| 26464 State Route 180 |
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| Brent McAdam |
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| Home Phone (315) 347 3415 |
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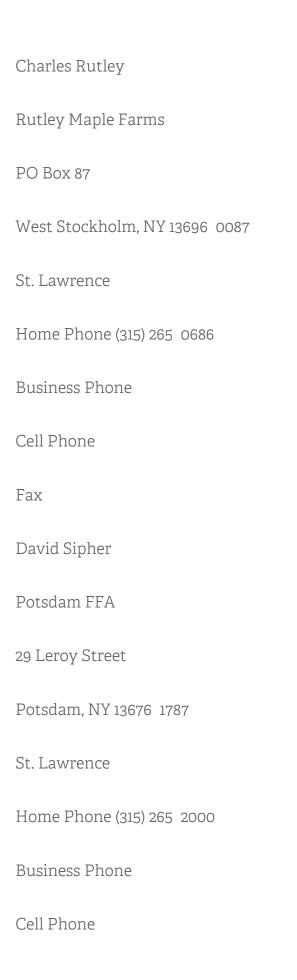


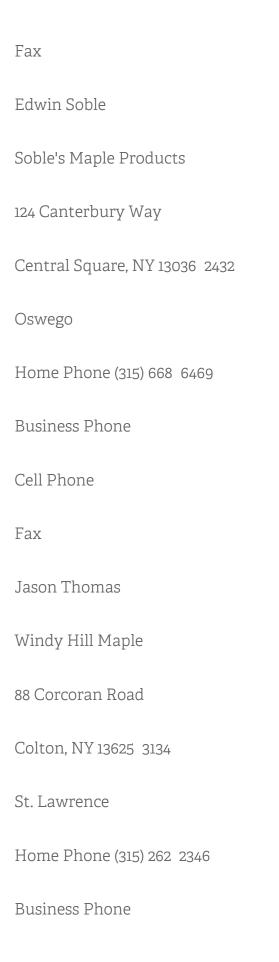
| St. Lawrence |
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| Home Phone (315) 324 5404 |
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| Hugh Newton |
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| Sally Newton |
| Hugh's Sugar Shack |
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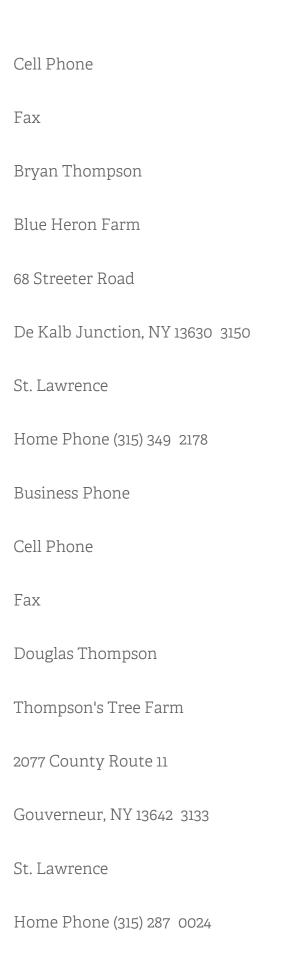


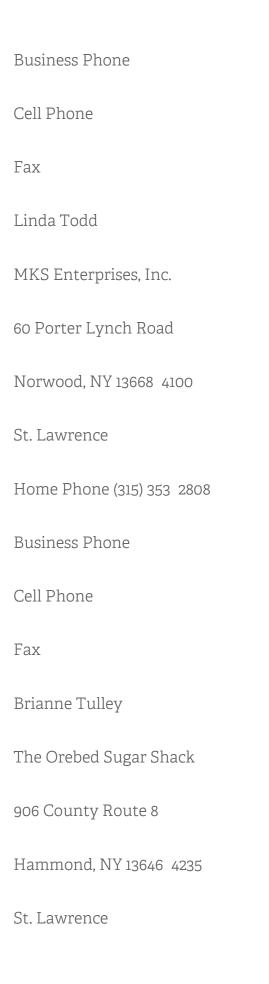
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| Timothy Whitens |
| |

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