

Press Room

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vermont Maple Syrup Producers Hold Seventh Annual Maple Open House Weekend and Governor's Tree Tapping Ceremony

Brattleboro, VT (January 2, 2008) — The Seventh Annual Vermont Maple Open House Weekend will be held at sugarhouses throughout Vermont, March 28-30, 2008. The Open House Weekend is the public celebration of the maple syrup season in Vermont and an opportunity for the public to visit one or more “sugarhouses” throughout the state. Activities during Open House Weekend will be different at each sugarhouse but will include the opportunity to watch maple syrup being made (weather permitting) and often sample maple products.

“Maple sugaring is a rich part of Vermont’s identity and heritage,” said Governor Jim Douglas. “The Maple Open House Weekend is a quintessential Vermont event that celebrates this timeless tradition.”

Some sugarhouses offer tours of their “sugarbushes” and some have special activities for children.

No two sugarhouses are the same so people are encouraged to visit more than one. “There is nothing sweeter than visiting a local sugar house. From the tree to the table, you’ll see firsthand why Vermonters make the finest maple syrup in the world,” said Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Roger Allbee.

Information about all of the participating maple syrup producers including which of the three days they will be open and directions to their sugarhouses can be found on www.vermontmaple.org or in the “2008 Vermont Ski & Maple Guide” which can be found at all the

Vermont Welcome Centers and at Chambers of Commerce or through the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing at 800-837-6668.

The annual Governor’s Tree-Tapping Ceremony will be held March 24 at 11:00 A.M. in Craftsbury, VT and Governor Jim Douglas is scheduled to be there to tap a maple tree in celebration of the Vermont sugaring season, as will Sterling College president, Will Wootton. Sterling College students will be providing tours of their sugarhouse on the college campus.

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Press Room



Maple season in Vermont is a special time when maple producers all around the state collect sap from sugar maples and boil it down to pure Vermont maple syrup. Steam billowing from sugarhouse roofs all around the state is a sign that sap is boiling.

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has selected the Vermont Maple Open House Weekend as one of the “Top 25 Events for Kids”.

Vermont is the largest U.S. producer of maple syrup and approximately 500,000 gallons or 5.5 million pounds of syrup is produced in Vermont annually.

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