

# Maple Producers: Farmers Of A Different Variety

(Continued from Page D1)

they want to be good stewards of the lands."

The local maple production program was conducted at the Chris and Susan Maust Farm near Boynton. The Mausts, along with their teen-age daughter Rebecca, have been in the maple production business for several years now. What started out as a hobby has turned into a busier operation.

"I love to tell people about maple production and show them how it's done," said Chris, an eighth generation farmer on the Maust farm. His ancestor Jacob deeded the property in 1789 but was on that site as early as 1757. Although Chris' grandfather M. Reiman died before his birth, Chris has followed in his footsteps in the maple production business and his father, the late Robert, a retired school teacher who passed away last year, also helped out frequently.

"It's not a hobby anymore, it's a family business," said Chris. He plans to have 2,000 taps on his maple trees this coming season starting in about late January and lasting until March.

Maust used to use buckets to carry the sugar water to the tanks but he has since installed plastic tubing to save time and energy.

## Growing Trees A Tough Job

(Continued from Page D1)

ty but if you want a successful crop, it has to be done."

Wholesalers all want their trees by Thanksgiving weekend. "This mean the week before Thanksgiving, rain, snow, sleet, or shine, we will be cutting and delivering trees."

Life constantly repeats the lesson of "Don't count your chickens." Bussard has had deals fall through at the last minute or checks that bounced. He remembers one year when he delivered a truckload of trees to a wholesaler in Indiana. Unfortunately, it was raining and freezing. The trees froze and the wholesaler could not them thawed. Consequently, a dispute ensued.

"It's all part of the business," said Bussard. The Bussard picturesque farm with its reflecting pond surrounded by tall hills invites those who enjoy the nostalgia of cutting their own trees to do so. Sam and Delores also sell trees from the front porch of their log home.

Local tree retailers all know Sam and even those who grow their own trees will add some from Bussard's fields.

Another 15 acres of the Bussard farm is planted in apple trees, a business which blends nicely with Christmas trees.

"We grow York, Golden delicious, Fuji, Gala, and Northern

The tubing simply collects the maple sugar water from thousands of trees and deposits it into a storage tank, which is emptied into a larger one at the sugar camp, and then a modern evaporator takes the hours of manual stirring and boiling out of the once laborious process.

"Maple farmers are concerned about their properties and want to see their heritage thriving in future generations. They have questions and a workshop like this helps them get some of those questions answered," said Lynette Ely, a spokesperson for the Somerset County Maple Producers. "This is a remarkable program for local producers."

According to Ely, there are about 30 regular members of the Somerset County Maple Producers, but there are several unrecorded maple farmers throughout the county and in the Amish communities. The total amount could be upward of 100 in Somerset County.

"Workshops like these are so essential," said Ely, "because maple producers have questions about their operations."

In addition to Wolf, Miguel Saviroff, a Somerset County extension agent, spoke during the morning session concerning estate planning for the maple producer and succession planning for their businesses.

Then, Wolf guided the maple producers to the Maust's woodlot, also described in the industry as the sugarbush, to discuss sugarbush management.

"You are probably not growing maple trees for timbering but if managed correctly, you can increase maple production by doing some thinning," said Wolf.

He advised removing any trees that are competitors, and dead, dying, diseased, defective or potential future problems. He showed the participants that a subordinate tree that might be much smaller in diameter can actually be the same age as a dominant

tree that is much larger in diameter. By removing some of the smaller, more subordinate trees, the dominant ones have more room to develop, which can lead to higher maple production.

A series of thinnings can increase the growth rate of trees by 20 to 40 percent in the next 10 years, he explained.

"I'm not advocating that you go and chop down your trees, but it doesn't hurt to start somewhere. Start small but start now, and then every single year, make it your priority to have a thinning project," he said.

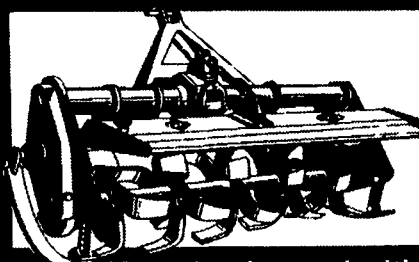
In managing the sugarbush, maple producers should seek to make the crown, or upper

branches, wider and deeper so more limbs can grow. There should be at least 10 feet of space for the crown to expand on both sides.

"You chose which trees stay and which trees go, and by doing that, you have more benefit within your harvest area because you are letting more sunlight to the crown," said Wolf.

Wolf noted that crop trees should be evenly spaced throughout the stand of trees. There should be 80 to 120 trees per acre in a mature stand. Ideally, there should be one crop tree every 20 feet throughout the stand of timber.

Do you demand more than a "Garden Variety" tiller?



Meet the demand with a Kuhn Heavy Duty, All Gear Drive, Commercial grade, EL Power-Tiller.

Models with:

- ◆ 35, 50, 80 & 100 hp continuous ratings
- ◆ Width from 3' to 10'
- ◆ Kuhn offers 39 models of tillers from 30 to 200 HP
- ◆ Options available to customize tillers.



(717) 354-4191

(800) 346-8319

110 South Railroad Ave  
New Holland, PA 17557

Monday Thru Friday 7:30-5:00; Saturday 7:30-Noon  
Other Times Available By Appointment  
e-mail [abcgroff@abcgroff.com](mailto:abcgroff@abcgroff.com)



## Weaverland Auction, Inc.

Selling Flowers & Produce  
March thru November

Selling Hay, Straw & Grain  
Every Thursday at 10:00 A.M.

Annual Growers meeting at Terre Hill  
Community Center

Wed. Dec. 31 at 1:00 P.M.

Coffee & Donuts 12:30

Pesticide credits provided

Thanks to all our growers & buyers

"We wish you all a

Happy Holiday Season."

**Weaverland Auction**

1030 Long Lane Road • New Holland, PA 17557  
Mailing Address 485 Quarry Road New Holland, PA 17557



We sell local  
and shipped:

Produce • Flowers  
Shrubs • Bushes  
Lawn Ornaments

Phone: (717) 355-0834  
Fax: (717) 355-9429

## We know...

We have the absolute best seed variety line-up in the East.



T.A. Seeds' Research Team  
disqualifies 90 percent of the  
seed genetics they test,  
meaning that you receive  
only superior products  
for your operation.

"We guarantee it—we stake our  
reputations on it," T.A. Seeds Research  
Team: David "Huffy" Huffman, Scott  
Clewell, Jim Breining, Roger Laub,  
and Jason Duke.

## T.A. SEEDS

Offering more than sixty seed varieties of corn  
and silage; forage grasses, legumes, and alfalfa,  
and soybeans

866-813-SEED (toll-free)

570-753-5503

P.O. Box 300 • Avis, PA 17721

[www.taseeds.com](http://www.taseeds.com)

Taylor A. Doebler III  
President

## Penn State Adopts Landscape IPM Policy

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Penn State is taking strides to ensure practices used to manage landscape pests around campus pose minimal hazard to people, property and the environment.

The Office of Physical Plant's (OPP) landscape department will utilize IPM to manage landscape pests and the pesticides used for their control. The IPM strategy is

part of the campus environmental stewardship program.

According to Ron Eckenroth, supervisor in grounds and maintenance in OPP, many IPM practices have been used around the campus for years. "Before, we would assess a problem and sometimes use IPM tactics as appropriate. Now, we'll have a formal policy in place with specific guidelines to follow."