



# Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association

Since 1893, maintaining a prosperous maple industry and a working landscape that future generations will enjoy while producing the highest quality maple syrup in the world.



# Who is Vermont Maple?

- Current and retired maple producers of all scales
- Bulk buyers and co-packers
- Equipment manufacturers
- Maple-related businesses
- Industry researchers and educators
- Foresters and other forest management professionals

## Our broad membership includes Vermonters who are:

Landowners; foresters; food manufacturers; enrolled in UVA; organic-certified; food safety certified; civically engaged; retired or active military; teachers; multi-generational operations; diversified farmers; hiring migrant workers; selling in retail, bulk, and wholesale markets





# VMSMA's Work

Marketing

Advocacy

Partnership

Legacy & Leadership

Education & Best Practices



# The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

OPENING DAY

## Batter up!? Sox could be a hit if they, well, hit.

CINCINNATI — When you cover a popular team for a half century and spend a few days with them at spring training, folks back home in New England regularly ask, "What do you think of the Sox this year?"

I feel strongly both ways. This week photos was a 20th-century ad campaign for Miller Lite Beer ("Better great" or "Less Filling?"), and it's a common

DAN SHAUGHNESSY

**Subject antics**

Brian Johnson is the subject of immense, and perhaps undue, expectations. **C1.**

**Sox roster**

A few new faces this season. **C5.**

refrain for fence-straddlers and flip-flopping political candidates. That's me with the Alex Cora Athletic Club (ACAC) of 2026.

And, like many of you, I have my doubts.

I like 'em because robotic president of baseball ops Craig Breslow did a fab job something what looks like one of the better starting rotations in baseball. In December of '26, they traded four

minor leaguers for the services of a 24-year-old indomitable left-handed ace, Garrett Crochet. Months later, Breslow extended Crochet's contract through 2031, then washed him go 18-5 with a 2.59 ERA and 255 strikeouts — good for second in AL Cy Young voting. Last October, Crochet stuffed the Yankees in a locker, beating the Bombers with 11

**SHAUGHNESSY, Page C4**

'The folks who are going to thrive are the ones who are able to make adjustments.'

MARK ISSELHARDT, maple specialist at University of Vermont Extension



PHOTO BY VANILLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

## STILL THAT SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS IN VT. WOODS

Technologies, adaptations keep sugarmakers a step ahead of climate change



Top, Jacob Prewen checked on the boiling in the Braid Farm sugarcabin in North Chittenden, Vt. Above, a syrup specialist revealed the difference in maple syrup color grading.

By Kate Selig

GLORIE STAFF

FAIRFIELD, VT. — In faded photographs hung on the sugarcabin wall, a young couple collect sap from galvanized steel buckets while horses pull a sleigh through snow-covered woods — the storied image of maple sugaring in New England.

While the horses and buckets are long gone, the warm, caramel scent of boiling sap still drifts through the woods here, and the same couple, Tom and Cecile Brown, now gather sap with more advanced tools: miles of plastic tubing, down by vacuum pumps from thousands of trees. Machines concentrate it into a frothy, golden liquid before it is boiled, cutting down the time and energy needed to make syrup.

For years, some climate scientists have been warning that warmer weather could disrupt sap flow, triggering a "maple-pocalypse." But technologies like the ones the Browns use are keeping sugarmakers one step ahead. Vermont's maple production is booming even as other iconic

**MAPLE SYRUP, Page A8**

## Stymied, GOP tries audible on shutdown

### Seeks to unlink Trump's bid on election overhaul from bill to fund DHS

By Jim Pazzanghera

GLORIE STAFF

WASHINGTON — With airport security lines growing long and time running short before a scheduled congressional recess next week, senators have been scrambling to find a way to end a nearly six-week partial government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

But the difficult task of striking a bipartisan deal for the department, which includes the vital Transportation Security Administration and the polarizing Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, got even more complicated when President Trump threw a wrench into the process. He's demanding that any funding agreement also include a controversial Republican election overhaul bill called the SAVE America Act.

Democrats are dead-set against the election legislation, which they said would disenfranchise millions of voters, and a threatened filibuster from their dozens in the Senate. And Senate Republicans aren't in lockstep on it either. So,

**SHUTDOWN, Page A7**

TRACY KIDDER 1945-2026

## His books delved deep into human frailty, feats

By Bryan Marquard

GLORIE STAFF

In any setting, and there were many during 60 years of book-length journalism, Tracy Kidder illuminated the human condition with deft phrases and elegant details.

At a meeting home near where he lived in Western Massachusetts, an elderly woman walked with a "hybrid pair of slippers, frailty, and vigor." In a suburban Boston computer firm that was a haven for odd men, an executive spoke of "flying upside down." It seemed to mean taking large risks — a desirable activity — the very stuff of a vigorous life.

And one evening along a dirt road in Haiti, Mr. Kidder sat beside the passionate cofounder of a nonprofit that provides health care to underdeveloped regions. A murmur of voodoo drums rose from the valley below. "The spirit's right now. I like the sound," he wrote. "He so many hearts beating through a single stonehouse."

Mr. Kidder, whose best-selling books expanded the depth, range, and popularity of immersive, narrative nonfiction, died in Boston Tuesday, just weeks after becoming very ill. He was 80 and had lived in W-

## FOOD & WINE

FOOD DRINK RESTAURANTS NEWS EVENTS

# It's Sugar House Hopping Season in Vermont — Here's Where to Taste Maple

Follow the steam puffs for demonstrations, maple syrup samples, and more.

By [Kathleen M. Mangan](#) | Published on March 20, 2026



Credit: Photo by Donna Young



# Maple Marketing



Maple Open House Weekend



The Big E in the VT Building



New! Website in partner with VAAFM funding



Social Media



VMSMA maple containers



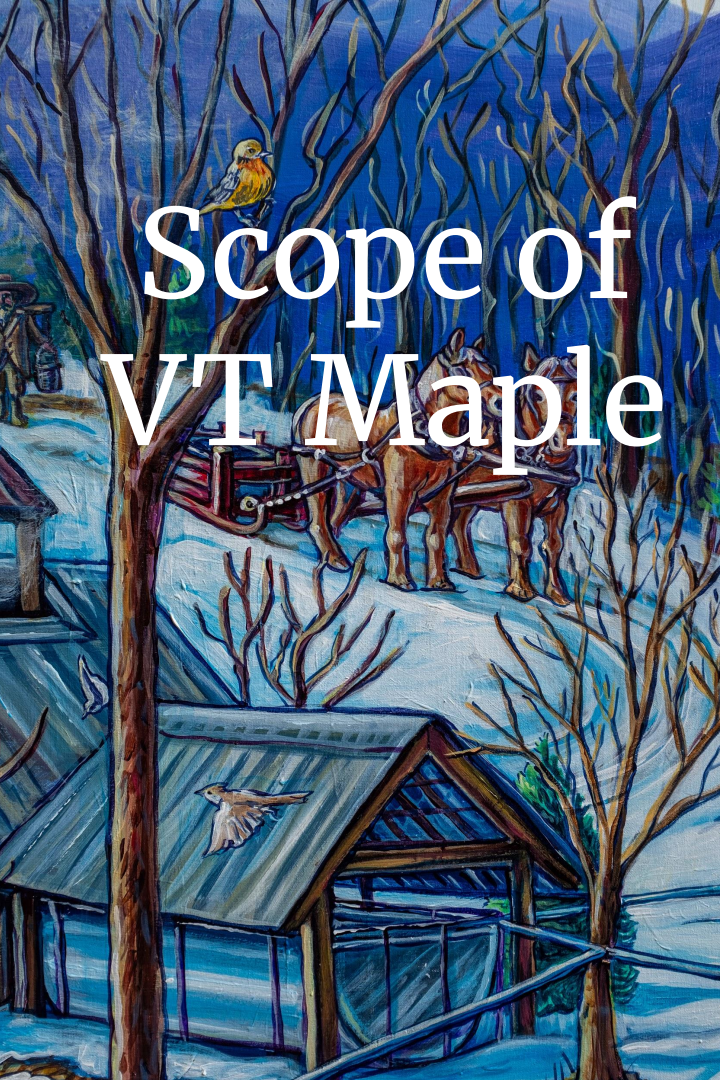
Sugarhouse Certification Program



Maple 2-1-1 for consumers



Vermont Brochure Program & Welcome Centers



# Scope of VT Maple

Maple Syrup: Total Production (thousands of gallons)

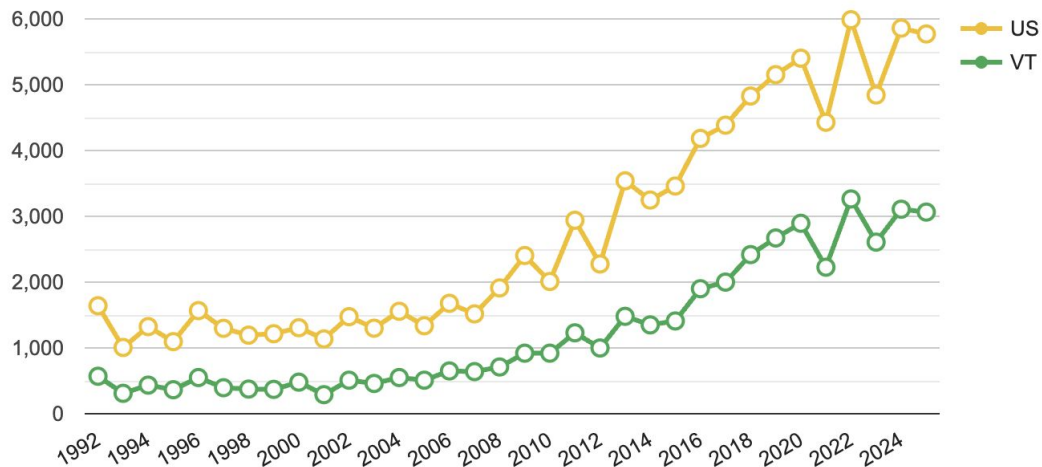


Chart source: UVM Extension



**2005 vs 2025 = 650%**



# The Federal and State Landscape

A painting of a winter landscape. In the foreground, a wooden barn with a corrugated metal roof is partially visible. A white bird is flying in the sky above the barn. In the middle ground, two brown horses are harnessed together, standing in a snowy field. In the background, there are bare trees and a small house. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, whites, and browns, suggesting a cold, wintry scene.

## State & Federal Landscape

- Climate resiliency
  - weather patterns and extreme events
  - Forest floor, soil health, invasive species
  - timing of the sugaring season
  - Ongoing research
- Labor
- Tariffs & CUSMA
- Organic defoamer & organic cost share
- VT lead action level of 6ppb
- USDA ACER funding
- Electrification costs
- Input costs for production vs retail and bulk pricing
- NIST and certified master hydrometers
- Act 181 and other state legislation



**You Are  
Invited**

# **VMSMA's Annual Maple Summit**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2026**

**Proctor Maple Research Center,**

**Underhill, VT**

**9am-4pm**

*Focused on engagement around federal and  
state activities, research, and economic  
outlooks*