



Maple Inspection Highlights

Food Safety & Consumer
Protection Division

Vermont Agency of
Agriculture, Food and
Markets

Maple Regulatory Program

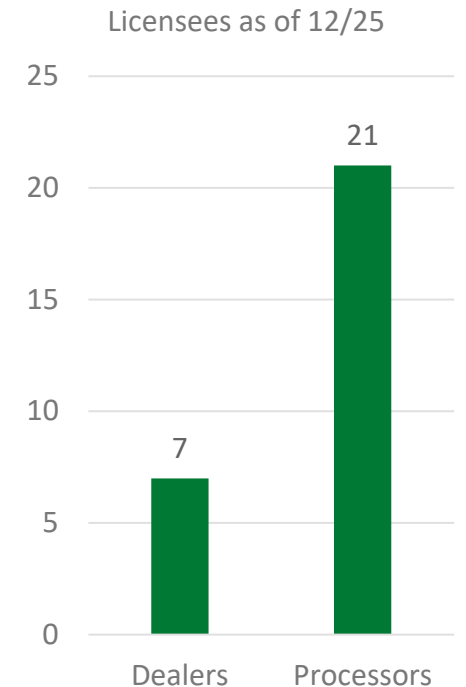
- Conduct retail inspections and licensed processor inspections
- Respond to consumer complaints and food safety concerns
- Provide regulatory oversight and technical assistance



Licensed Dealers & Processors

Maple dealers and processors doing business in Vermont, or who wish to do business in Vermont, must obtain an annual license.

- “Dealer” means a person who annually buys, or otherwise acquires from another person, 1,000 gallons of maple syrup or more for purposes of packaging for resale or for resale in bulk.
- “Processor” means a person who annually buys, or otherwise acquires from another person, 2,500 gallons of maple syrup or more for purposes of packaging for resale, processing into associated products, or for resale in bulk.



Inspection Criteria

Full details in
the Q&A
document



Maple Dealer and Processor Inspection Criteria

FOOD SAFETY

<i>Citation</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
6 V.S.A. § 491(a)	Adulteration, maple products	No person shall manufacture, package, sell, offer for sale, deliver, or in any way possess any maple product that is adulterated within the meaning of 18 V.S.A. § 4059.
6 V.S.A. § 491(b)	Filtration, maple syrup	Maple syrup shall not be bleached or lightened in color by artificial means except by simple filtration through cloth or paper, through a filter press, or through food grade diatomaceous earth with a filter press to remove suspended solids.
6 V.S.A. § 494(b)	Containers and equipment (maple products), sanitary requirements	Containers and equipment used for packaging maple products shall be clean and sanitary at the time of packing.
C.V.R. 20-011-002, Section VI.1	Containers (maple syrup), seals	All packaged maple syrup containers shall have tamper proof seals which have been approved by the Secretary placed over the container openings except: a) Where the Secretary has deemed that it is impractical to use tamper proof seals on a particular container. or

agriculture.vermont.gov/food-safety/maple-products

Processor Inspection Themes

Inspections began July 2025

1/3rd of initial inspections completed (as of 3/26)

Common topics

- Records and traceability
- Quality controls and monitoring
- Drum quality
- Label reviews

Retail Inspection Data

Maple Inspection Results (Jan. 2025 to Dec. 2025)

Food Safety & Consumer Protection Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Summary

Food Safety and Consumer Protection (FSCP) Division staff conducted 23 maple product inspections at retail locations between January 2025 and December 2025. See Table 1.

FSCP staff reviewed product labels and sampled maple syrup to ensure compliance with Vermont grade standards for quality, food safety, and labeling. A total of 64 maple syrup products were graded from 45 different producers and distributors.

32 of the 64 maple syrup samples, or 50%, were found to be overall in compliance. This is a decrease from last year when 66% were found in compliance. A product that was missing a batch code was considered in compliance as long as it had no other noncompliance issues.

Color was the most common reason for syrup being found out of compliance. 22 of the 32 maple syrup products found out of compliance were too dark for grade.

Other notable issues include:

- Off-flavors: ferment (3), chemical (1), metabolism (1), musty (1)
- Clarity: unclear (1)
- Density: low (5), high (3)
- Labeling: no batch code (9), inaccurate or missing size designation (4), no statement of identity (1), and a label that includes an inaccurate mold statement (1)



Inaccurate mold statement:

"If any harmless mold forms, heat syrup and skim the top."



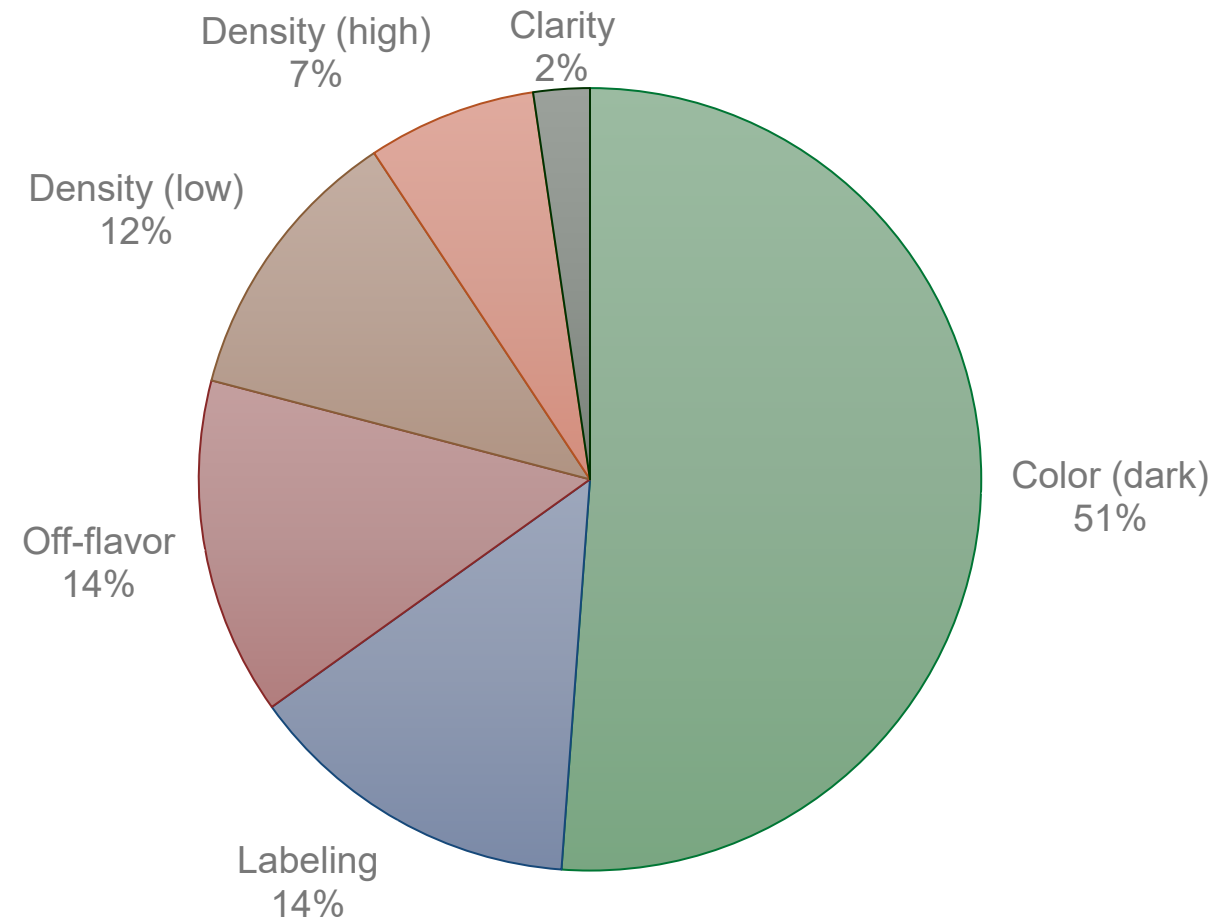
No label

Inspection Data (2025)

Retail inspections	23
Producers inspected	45
Maple syrup products sampled	64
Products that passed inspection	50%

Summary report available on website

Quality Issues



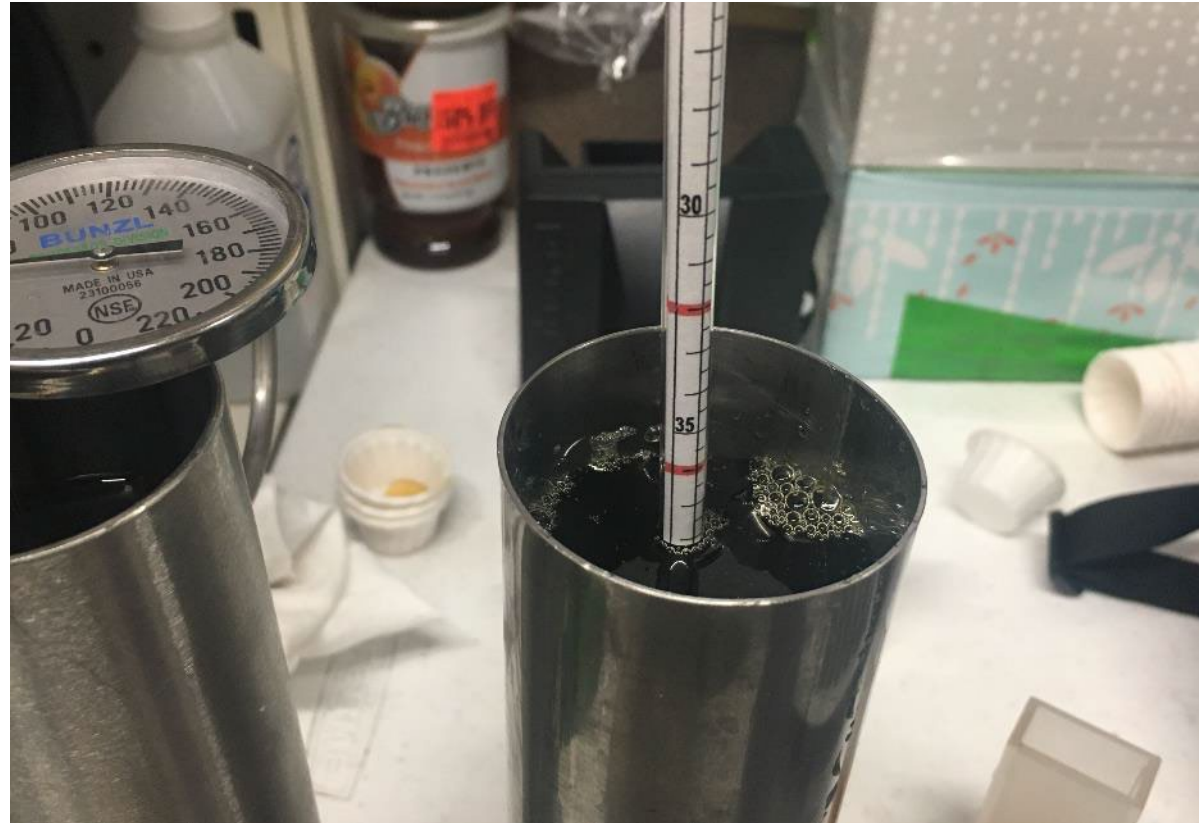
Color

- Most common issue
- Syrup darkens over time
- Instruments:
 - Temporary grading kit
 - Hanna checker
 - Lovibond kit

Grade	% light transmittance
Golden Delicate	75% to 100%
Amber Rich	50% to 74.9%
Dark Robust	25% to 49.9%
Very Dark Strong	less than 25%

Density

- Allowable range:
 - 36 to 37 Baume at 60F
 - 66.9 to 68.9 Brix at 60F
 - 66.5 to 68.5 Brix at 68F/20C
- Hydrometers must be state-inspected
- Replace old hydrometers when no longer accurate





Mold

- Hot pack
- Ensure a good seal
- Keep containers/production area clean

Labeling

- Product name
- Grade
- Volume (net)
- Producer name
- Business address
- Batch code





VT Maple Industry Investments & Impacts

**Agriculture Development Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food and Markets**

Maple Industry Development



- **Maple Marketing Efforts**
- **Maple Sector Investments**
- **2025 Drought Impacts on Maple Industry**

Maple Marketing



- Expanding consumer engagement
- Trade Show Assistance support: \$42,369
- Maple sap and syrup price reporting program

Vermont Monthly Maple Syrup Report

October 9, 2025

September 2025

RETAIL	Gallons	Min Price	Max Price	Weighted Avg Price
Golden/Delicate	35	\$100.000	\$100.000	\$100.000
Amber/Rich	267	\$45.000	\$93.333	\$87.978
Dark/Robust	79	\$45.000	\$93.333	\$83.291
Very Dark/Strong	18	\$100.000	\$100.000	\$100.000

RETAIL refers to **Direct-to-Consumer** sales: Maple syrup producers selling maple syrup to consumers whether through online orders, farmers markets, or roadside stands. **All prices are in USD per Gallon.**

WHOLESALE	Pounds	Min Price	Max Price	Weighted Avg Price
Golden/Delicate	-	-	-	-
Amber/Rich	1670	\$1.068	\$3.500	\$1.578
Dark/Robust	260	\$3.438	\$47.000	\$6.788

Maple Syrup Prices & Volume

Retail weight estimated at 11 Pounds per gallon

Retail

Wholesale

Bulk

Market Comparison



Retail refers to **Direct-to-Consumer** sales: Maple syrup producers selling maple syrup to consumers whether through online orders, farmers markets, or roadside stands.

Wholesale refers to **Business-to-Business** sales: Maple syrup producers selling maple syrup to restaurants, grocery stores, bakers and other businesses.

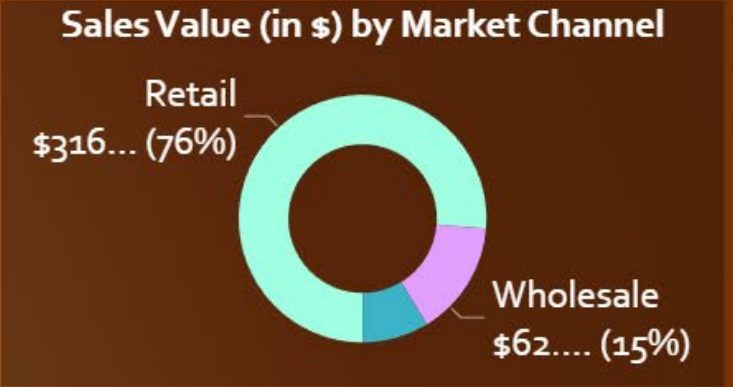
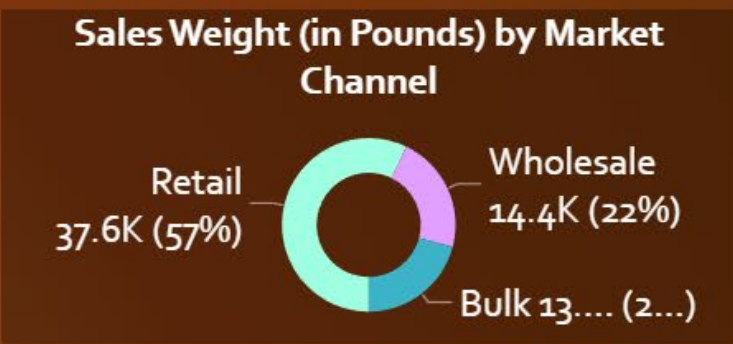
Bulk refers to all **Business-to-Business** sales when the container is greater than 5 gallons.

Is the maple operation certified organic?

Select all

No

Yes

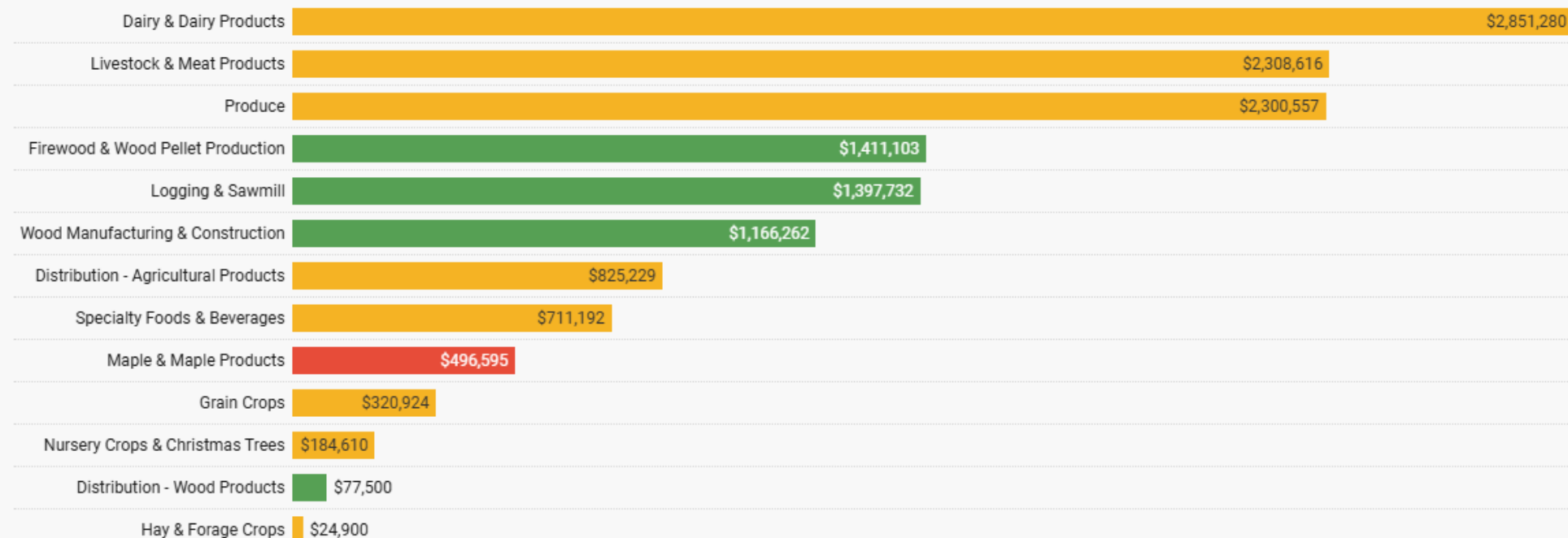


WLEI Investments in maple sector

\$496,595
(since 2013)

What Sectors Receive Grants?

Grant Funds to Businesses by Sector, FY2013-FY2025



Green bars represent forestry, and yellow bars represent agriculture. Maple can be both a forestry and an agricultural product and is represented with an orange bar. Trade Show Assistance Grants not included.

[Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

ADG Investments in maple sector

**\$542,355
(FY 24)**

Primary focus on:

- Processing upgrades (e.g. evaporators, ROs)
- Increased storage capacity
- Production monitoring/efficiency
- Production expansion
- Infrastructure improvements (e.g. roads, buildings)
- Food safety & quality improvements

SCBG Program Investments in maple sector

\$261,082
(since 2020)

Example projects:

- Development of VT maple marketing plan
- Capacity-building for industry association organization
- Bird-friendly maple production practices
- Agritourism 'passport program'
- Maple container labeling
- Maple sap and syrup price reporting

Drought Loss & Damage Survey (2025)

Drought Impacts

11,470

Sum of Acres Impacted

\$0.5M

Sum of Coping Costs

\$1.0M

Sum of Production Losses

Viewing Instructions: Hover over map for numbers and labels; Click on map or table to filter for selection; Control + click to select multiple; Click again to undo selection or refresh page.

Data Filters

Farm Size

- ☐ Large
- ☐ Medium
- ☐ Not a Farm
- ☐ Small
- ☐ Unknown

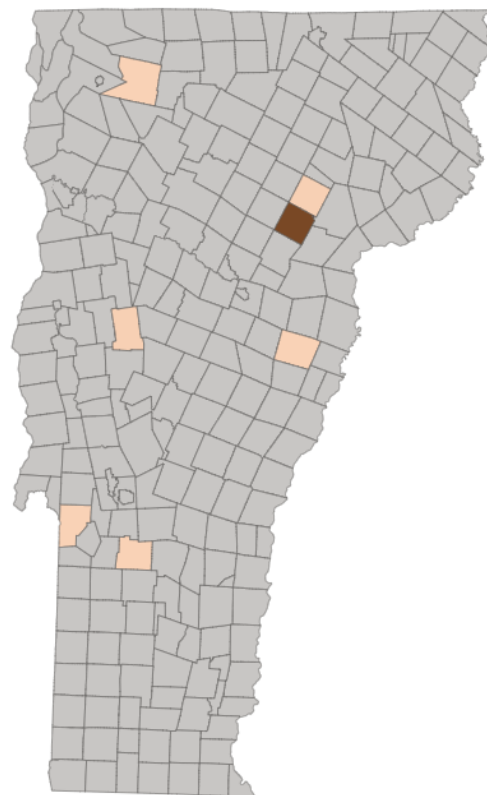
Primary Ag Business

- ☐ Dairy
- ☐ Diversified
- ☐ Hay & Feed Crops
- ☐ Honey/Bees
- ☐ Livestock
- ☒ Maple
- ☐ Produce & Horticultural

Insurance

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Estimated Financial Loss from Drought by Town



**Maple production losses are projected estimated losses for the 2026 sugaring season.*

County	Responses	Sum of Acres Impacted	Sum of Financial Loss
Washington	1	6,000	\$1,500,000
Addison	1		\$20,000
Caledonia	1	100	\$20,000
Franklin	2	4,650	\$0
Orange	1	170	\$0
Rutland	2	550	\$0
Total	8	11,470	\$1,540,000

Town	Responses	Sum of Acres Impacted	Sum of Financial Loss
Cabot	1	6,000	\$1,500,000
Lincoln	1		\$20,000
Walden	1	100	\$20,000
Corinth	1	170	\$0
Fairfield	2	4,650	\$0
Poultney	1	300	\$0
Wallingford	1	250	\$0
Total	8	11,470	\$1,540,000

Drought Loss & Damage Survey (2025)

Drought Financial Impact

\$1.5M

Production losses from the drought

\$1.0M

Costs incurred coping with the drought

\$0.5M

Estimated Income Loss

\$1,540,000

Sum of Financial Loss

\$1,500,000

Max of Financial Loss

\$192,500

Average of Financial Loss

\$0

Median of Financial Loss

8

Count of Financial Loss

**Maple production losses are projected estimated losses for the 2026 sugaring season.*

Percent of Income Lost

50

Max of Income Impacted

37

Average of Income Impacted

40

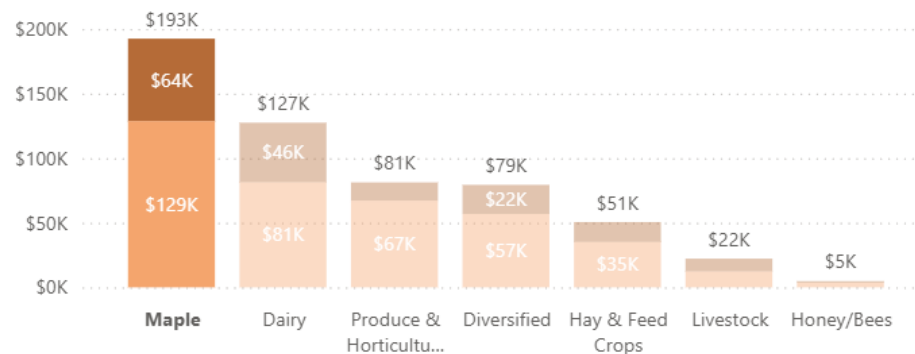
Median of Income Impacted

3

Count of Income Impacted

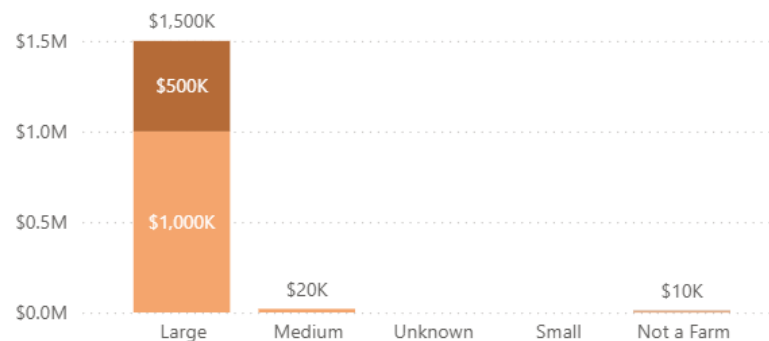
Average Estimated Income Loss & Costs Incurred by Farm Type

● Average of Production Losses ● Average of Coping Costs



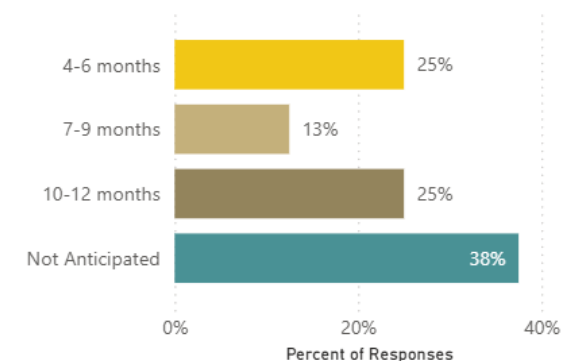
Average Estimated Income Loss & Costs Incurred by Farm Size

● Average of Production Losses ● Average of Coping Costs



Negative Cash Flow Anticipated

How soon do you anticipate your cash flow going negative as a result of the drought?



Financial Health

What is your perspective on the financial health of your operation over the next year?

