

Submitter: Gary Pendergrass
On Behalf Of: Those that are doing
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: SB882

There is a new and upcoming cottage industry harvesting Tree Sap...(think Maple syrup).

Please include Maple syrup (and related products) in the current Oregon Farm Direct revision to help Oregon small businesses get started as maple syrup providers. With the original push via Eric Jones of OSU, several small farms are already collecting sap and converting it into syrup...at a level of production that would allow them to sell their excess.

Oregon maple syrup makers, both hobby and cottage industry producers need to have their products included in the Oregon Farm Direct Law that allows small producers to use their home kitchens to process their syrup and sell it at farm stands, farmer's markets, and other direct-to-consumer outlets.

Maple syrup and other Tree sap products...e.g. products from Trees...Maple, Walnut, Birch, Alder, many others...as well as other concentrated sap products such as sugars and carbonated beverages from sap allows best use of small wood lots that are often heavy to Big Leaf Maple, Birch, Alder and Walnut trees. In effect, changing a not-for-profit woodlot into an income producing one.

Tree sap, such as from Maple and Walnut allows farmers to reap a financial benefit from properties that otherwise may not be income producing. "When you're buying syrup from a sap producer, you're supporting a family, keeping a piece of land intact, supporting the habitat,"

We and our neighbor have just completed our 3rd 'tapping' season and are now part of the 1st ever Big Leaf Maple Syrup Festival that will take place in Salem this May 13th...with a follow up conference at University of Portland on May 18-20.

Feel free to contact us if you would like more information on what's happening. I know of approximately 20 small farms that are already pursuing this in our part of the Willamette Valley and many others that are doing such for personal home use.

Regards, Gary Pendergrass and Tracy Johnston

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