



## USDA ACER research project seeks producers as collaborators

### Project title:

**Life cycle carbon footprint analysis and improvement strategies for US maple syrup production**

### Project goal:

Build a web-based calculator producers can use to estimate emissions and waste from the production process based on a small set of questions about their operations. The calculator will also provide a list of appropriate strategies to reduce emissions and waste.

### Project description:

The web calculator will be based on analysis of a larger set of data provided by participating producers across geography, number of taps, and process technologies & fuels. **We are currently recruiting producers** to collaborate in this effort by sharing data on their operations over the next two seasons (2024 and 2025). Note that **your data will not be shared** with anyone outside the research team at the Center for Sustainable Systems at the University of Michigan.

Participating producers will receive:

- 1) a report based on our analysis of their operational data, including suggested improvement strategies;
- 2) a certificate of participation; and
- 3) entry in a drawing for a gift card every season they share data.

### Data request:

We're following the ISO 14040 standard on life cycle assessment to assemble an inventory of syrup production. Many of you already collect the majority of the data we're seeking. We'll use your provided data on process inputs and a description of your equipment and operations to calculate emissions and waste outputs.

INPUTS: energy and fuels (electricity, wood, etc.), process materials (tubing, cleaners, defoamer), packaging (bottles/jugs), water

OUTPUTS: syrup and co-products (sugar, candy, cream) produced

### For More Information:

email project lead Geoff Lewis ([glewis@umich.edu](mailto:glewis@umich.edu)) with the subject line Maple Syrup Research

Project website: <https://css.umich.edu/research/projects/life-cycle-carbon-footprint-analysis-and-improvement-strategies-us-maple-syrup>

