

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Iron County UW-Extension to host Commercial Maple Syrup Production Public Forum October 20, 2018

Many in and around Iron County enjoy making maple syrup to share with family & friends, but how many have thought about next steps towards developing a maple syrup-based business? Iron County UW-Extension Educators, Amy Nosal and Darrin Kimbler, are facilitating a public forum to gauge community interest in developing a commercial maple syrup economy in Iron County and the surrounding area. In partnership with the Iron County Economic Development Zone, the Commercial Maple Production Syrup Public Forum will be held Saturday, October 20 at Whitecap Mountains Ski Resort in Upson from 11am to 2pm. Registration for the forum is \$5, which includes lunch.

The forum will provide participants with an opportunity to hear from and ask questions to a panel of professionals in commercial maple syrup production, value added maple syrup products and cooperative business development. The event will also give people a chance to network and organize with their fellow neighbors interested in the maple industry. Select vendors that support the maple syrup industry will be on hand with demonstrations of products and services.

There is good economic potential in developing the maple syrup industry in Iron and surrounding counties, as described by data provided by the USDA. Northern Wisconsin and the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan has some of the greatest concentrations of sugar maple forests in the nation. Despite having an abundance of this renewable resource, the area does not have a strong commercial maple syrup industry. At just under \$8 million in 2016, Wisconsin is the fourth largest producer of maple syrup in the country.

Join the conversation to explore how to develop this abundant natural resource to expand local economies! The forum is open to anyone with an interest in commercial maple syrup production or its value added products. To register and for more information go to our website: Iron.uwex.edu. You also call (715) 561-2695 for further assistance.

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