

OPERATION VERMONT MAPLE SWEETNESS 2009

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For Immediate Release

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Vermont Sugarmakers Pack Syrup for Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan “Operation Vermont Maple Sweetness 2009” Nears Completion

Underhill Center, VT—Vermont maple syrup, donated by producers all around the state, is on its way to Vermont troops as a reminder of the sights, smells and tastes of home.

Over the past three months, the Operation Maple Sweetness committee solicited donations of Vermont maple syrup from sugarmakers, the public and businesses throughout the state and approximately 6,000 pints were donated. The project is a partnership between the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association, Vermont Maple Foundation, Vermont Maple Industry Council and many other individuals and businesses.

That syrup was packed at Maple Grove of Vermont in St. Johnsbury, Vermont beginning at 8am on May 8, 2009. The pint containers have a special label describing the Operation Vermont Maple Sweetness 2009” project and a letter which states, *“The pure Vermont maple syrup packed inside these cases, was produced with care, and donated by, the Vermont maple syrup producers and packers as well as Vermont citizens. We want you to know how much everyone at home appreciates your courage, your sacrifice and your desire to serve your country. This is our way of sending you a taste of home.”*

“It is extremely exciting to be part of this operation and to see how so many Vermonters are eager to rally around our troops. Each year we send them a taste of Vermont’s first crop as a small token of our support and gratitude for the service they do for our country.” stated Sam Cutting, IV, chairperson of the committee.

Sending maple syrup to troops overseas is a Vermont tradition, beginning in the Civil War when maple sugar was sent to troops and continuing in WWII when maple sugar cakes were sent to soldiers overseas.

Steven Jones, General Manager of Maple Grove Farms of Vermont said, “All of the employees at Maple Grove Farms of Vermont welcome the opportunity to donate their time to pack the syrup for our troops as part of the effort to provide “a taste of home” in recognition of the sacrifices of our soldiers on our behalf.”

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