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Local Producers Score Big at International Maple Syrup Competition

Three local Minnesota maple syrup operations won four second place red ribbons at the recent North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) competition held in late October in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Ralph and Amy Fideldy owners of Timber Sweet Maple of Cohasset, MN took second place red ribbons in both the Grade A – Light Amber syrup class and the Maple Cream specialty product class.

Jerry Jacobson and D. Mae Ceryes, owners of Jake's Syrups and Natural Products of Vergas, MN took the second place red ribbon in the Grade A – Medium Amber class.

Stu and Corinne Peterson owners of Camp Aquila Pure Maple Syrup of Star Lake near Dent, MN took the second place red ribbon in the Grade A – Dark Amber class.

Syrup entries were judged by a panel of experienced maple syrup judges on the basis of density (correct sugar concentration), clarity, color and flavor appropriate for the grade. Producers from sixteen states and Canadian provinces from the maple production region competed for top honors.

The concurrent 2011 NAMSC and International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) annual conventions were hosted by the Michigan Maple Syrup Association in Frankenmuth, Michigan on October 23-26. Nearly 300 maple syrup producers from the U.S. and Canada attended the convention. Producers are encouraged to enter samples of their current year production in the contest at the annual fall convention.

Minnesota maintained its reputation for producing high quality flavorful pure maple syrup. Both Jake's Syrups and TimberSweet have been recent blue ribbon winners in prior year international competitions, while Camp Aquila was a 2011 blue ribbon winner at the Minnesota State Fair.

The NAMSC is a network of U.S. and Canadian maple syrup producer associations representing sixteen states and provinces. The IMSI is a trade organization comprised primarily of packers, suppliers, distributors and large producers of maple products. Both organizations share common objectives and work closely together to produce and protect the integrity of pure maple syrup.

The Minnesota Maple Syrup Producers' Association is a member of the NAMSC and is scheduled to host the NAMSC convention in 2019. The NAMSC and IMSI coordinate to bring together industry groups to share common experience and knowledge and to encourage research for the advancement of the maple syrup industry.

On a world-wide basis, maple syrup is produced commercially only in North America, within a region that generally surrounds the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic. The Province of Quebec, Canada is the largest maple syrup producer in the industry, producing about 2/3 of the industry total. The states of Vermont and New York are the largest U.S. producing states, while Minnesota is one of the smallest commercial producers.

For more information contact Stu Peterson, President MMSPA at 218-758-2796 or visit www.mnmaple.org .