



Moose Meadows Farm

2861 Nazko Road, Quesnel, BC, V2J 7E5, CANADA

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Website: www.moosemeadowsfarm.ca

Where we farm with the seasons....

WORKSHOP ABSTRACT

Workshop Presenter: Heloise Dixon-Warren, BSc, RPF

Workshop Title: Birch Tapping and Syrup Production Workshop

This one day workshop (7 hour total) will introduce the registrants to “sugaring off” boreal forest style. Tapping birch sap is considered “agro-forestry” and the sap itself is a “non-timber forest product” (NTFP). With the massive distribution of birch across Canada, coupled with a growing interest in alternate crop agriculture, local food production, food security, agroforestry, economic diversification, NTFPs and the small number of commercial producers operating today, the birch syrup industry has potential for expansion. There are approximately 14 known existing commercial producers across Canada. All of them state that demand for their product exceeds supply.

The workshop will focus on tree and sap physiology, backyard and commercial supplies and equipment, legislation and marketing, food safe production, culinary uses, and an introduction to other products that can be made from the birch tree. There will be an opportunity to network while sampling some sap and syrup products from birch sugar bushes from across Canada and Alaska. As a form of small lot agriculture, an emphasis will be made as to how birch tapping fits into healthy community sustainability and economic diversification. The workshop will include a demonstration on tree tapping in addition to evaporating sap using a backyard hobby method. All participants will receive two tapping kits (spile and tube assembly).

The target audience for the workshop includes both prospective backyard and commercial operators and simply anyone interested in farm and forest diversification.

Note:

Workshop participation could include a copy of “*The Birch Syrup Production Manual – Tapping into Syrup Boreal Forest Style*” authored by Heloise Dixon-Warren and published by Moose Meadows Farm with initial support from the Agroforestry Initiative of Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. The manual is valued at \$40.00 CDN.



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Articles on Moose Meadows Farm, and its birch syrup operation, can be viewed in the following magazines, newspapers, and websites:

Small Farm Canada Jan. / Feb. 2011, *"Diversifying with Mother Nature - Would wild Crafting fit in with your small farm"*, pg. 32 - 36 (<http://smallfarmcanada.ca/2011/janfeb-2011/>)

AgCanada.com, Grainews, Dec. 6, 2010, *"Wild in the Country"*, www.agcanada.com/Article.aspx?ID=30357

Western Producer (Producer.com), July 29, 2010, Farm Living *"Family Sells Natural World"* (<http://www.producer.com/Farm-Living/Article.aspx?aid=24935>)

Canadian Farmer Manager Newsletter, June / July, 2009 (farmcentre.com): *"Unusual sideline transforms BC farm"* (<http://www.farmcentre.com/news/CFMNewsletter/Article.aspx?newsletter=d875a444-9c36-403e-ae79-b9734f403006&id=54d7ae35-f1f0-4a27-be80-54d6a446af85>) (<http://www.farmcentre.com/File.aspx?id=0fed8bd8-59a0-4ec5-b88b-1abb9d7c5e53>)

Living Woods Magazine (UK), Mar. / Apr. 2009, *"Wood Food – Tapping the birch sap"*

Western Living, Jan. / Feb. 2009, *"Beyond Breakfast – new western syrups are trickling onto the market: here are three to try"*

Down to the Roots, Summer 2008, *"Producing Birch Syrup, Delicious, Natural and a Niche Product"*

Ecoforestry, Volume 20, No. 3-4, Summer / Fall 2007 *"Birch Syrup" Boreal Forest Diversification"* Moose Meadows Farm Portfolio – February, 2011

Growing Tomorrow, Summer 2008, *"Innovation Award presented for Birch Syrup Project"*, (http://www.iafbc.ca/publications_and_resources/documents/2008-Summer.pdf)

EAT Magazine, May / June, 2008, *"Sap Happy"*

farmcentre.com (The Canadian Farm Business Management Council website), March 10, 2008; *"Birch Syrup: Premium Product in a Niche Market"* (<http://www.farmcentre.com/Features/ScienceInnovation/Article.aspx?id=efcd7ceb-0035-4a54-a0a9-a204f2fc208a>)

farmcentre.com (The Canadian Farm Business Management Council website), Today's Story: *"Tapping into Syrup - Boreal Forest Style"* (<http://www.farmcentre.com/news/TodaysStory/Article.aspx?id=d64d9bcc-25ab-4fd3-9482-834dff443fc8>)

The Province Newspaper, February 17, 2008, *"Anyone for a pint of birch beer?"* (<http://www.canada.com/theprovince/news/money/story.html?k=64566&id=c361762e-acdf-47b3-bf2b-d60e49d7391d>)

Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia; News Release - February 15, 2008; *"Birch Syrup Project wins Award of Excellence for Innovation"*; (http://www.iafbc.ca/what_s_new_or_media/documents/08-02-15_2008Award.pdf)

Small Farm Canada, Nov. / Dec. 2007, *"Get more from Your Woodlot with Birch Syrup"*,

Birch Syrup Production Workshop – ABSTRACT

Dated: March, 2011

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