



Farm Story Spotlight

ROXBURY MOUNTAIN MAPLE LLC

HOBART, NEW YORK

MAPLE. CATTLE. FAMILY. A SWEETER TOMORROW.

*From
our trees,
our land,
our family
to yours.*

Hi, my name is Dave Holscher. My wife, Linda, and I are the founders and owners of Roxbury Mountain Maple LLC, located where we live in Hobart, New York. In 1994, we wanted a better place than the North Shore of Boston to raise our then five young children and moved here into a large farmhouse. As the seventh generation in agriculture, I wanted to use our family farm to teach my children life skills such as hard work, working together, observing the world around them, and loving their fellow man.

By 2010, our family had grown by three more children, and we realized that the old farm we lived on could support us with its thousands of maple trees. Technology had improved so that maple production could finally be profitable. I wanted my work to be closer to my family and saw this as an opportunity to do so. For many years, I traveled to Rhode Island to manage my asphalt company, Holscher Sealcoating. The travel was tough, limiting my ability to spend time with my wife and kids.

Setting up the maple business took a tremendous amount of effort. Our family of ten had to rally together with some of our closest friends to build it from the ground up. Blood, sweat, and tears were expended. While we were building the sap house, maple season consumed us so completely that one day Linda walked into the barn and found it full of kittens; Molly, the farm cat, had managed several unnoticed litters while everyone was busy with sap.

Since then, we have become one of the largest maple producers in New York with 30,000 taps. We have processed up to 605,000 gallons of sap in a season, which can last anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Our youngest son, Joel, is now the general manager of the maple business and owner of Roxbury Mountain Cattle Co., LLC, a grass-fed and finished beef farm. Nestled in the Catskills, our hills sprawl with cattle and maple trees, and lush green grass covers nutrient-rich soil. The best spring water hydrates our land, livestock, and us, while our faith in God nourishes our spirits and souls.

In 2012, we were accepted into the Union Square Greenmarket, GrowNYC's flagship farmers market, and we continue to sell our products there on Mondays and Wednesdays all year long. Today, our offerings include maple syrup, maple soda, maple cream, maple cotton candy, honey from our own hives, and grass-fed and finished beef. Getting into this farmers market was a game changer because it draws up to 60,000 visitors on any given market day, a stratospheric difference from our farm store, which receives two or three customers each day. In fact, there are only about 44,000 residents in all of Delaware County. Thus, the green market has helped make it possible for us to continue operating from here.

As a farm built and run by our family, all eight of our children have poured their hearts and strength into the business, whether by building the sap house, working countless farmers markets, or handling secretarial work locally and remotely. Sometimes this has meant (and continues to mean) 18-to-24-hour shifts during the height of the maple season or traversing the hills behind us with 40 pounds of equipment on their backs, tapping trees and maintaining sap lines. We call it "walking uphill both ways" because, with so many lines running across the terrain, there always seems to be another climb.



*Generations
Grow Here*



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Delaware County