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For Immediate Release

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Bissell Maple Farm Hosts Public, Offers Free Pancake Breakfast During Annual Maple Madness Tour in March

Event is Part of Statewide Tour by The Ohio Maple Producers Association

Rock Creek, Ohio – Bissell Maple Farm, a sixth generation family-owned and operated maple syrup farm in Ashtabula County, is proud to participate in The Ohio Maple Producers Association's annual Maple Madness Tour on the first, second, and third Saturdays in March.

During this family-friendly event, visitors will enjoy horse-drawn wagons rides, glimpse the acres of maple trees tapped for sap collection, and experience the state-of-the-art sap evaporator on guided tours of the sugar house before enjoying a free pancake breakfast featuring Bissell Maple Farm's own maple syrup. Local bluegrass musicians will add a lively backdrop to the sweet and tasty fun. This unique event gives visitors a chance to learn first-hand the process of how pure maple syrup is made, from tree to table.

The Maple Madness Tour is held, rain, snow, or shine, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. the first three Saturdays in March. Though the Farm's facilities are heated, visitors are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Says Nate Bissell, owner, "We recognize that we're off the beaten path and so we make every effort to welcome our Maple Madness guests and want them to be comfortable throughout their tour experience. But it can get a little muddy sometimes. We are a farm, after all."

The farm produces the Rock Creek Sugarworks and Sugar Chalet brands. The former is named for the town in which it is based and the latter, for the charm and comfort of the sugar house itself. Comparing sepia-toned photographs of the Bissell sugar camp from the turn-of-the-century to today's facilities, a Bissell aunt is credited with describing the building as less of a sugar house and more of a sugar chalet. A full line of products representing both brands will be available for sale during the Maple Madness Tour, including 100% pure maple syrup, bourbon barrel aged maple syrup, mustards, barbeque sauces, candies, and other confections.

Bissell Maple Farm is located at 3741 Higley Road in Rock Creek, Ohio, approximately an hour and a half from Cleveland.

About Bissell Maple Farm

Bissell Maple Farm has tapped thousands of maple trees, collected sap, and used a wood-fired evaporator to make maple syrup every spring for the past 100 years in Northeast Ohio. While machinery is now commercially-fabricated and built to meet ODA and USDA quality-control guidelines, the hundreds-of-years-old process of making pure maple syrup is still the same at its core. Nathan Bissell is the sixth generation owner and operator of Bissell Maple Farm.

The farm produces pure maple syrup in a variety of grades and gourmet maple syrup-infused products such as barbeque sauce, dipping mustard, candies, maple-roasted nuts, and granulated maple sugar. The products are sold online and in specialty grocers like Whole Foods Market and Earth Fare as well as larger chain supermarkets in Ohio and across the country. Bissell Maple Farm's featured specialty product, Bourbon Barrel Aged Maple Syrup, was introduced in 2014. At the Fabulous Food Show in Cleveland last fall, the Plain Dealer's Debbi Snook called it one of the top eight tastes of the show and her personal favorite. All products will be available for purchase during the Maple Madness Tour.

About The Ohio Maple Producers Association

The Ohio Maple Producers Association is committed to raising the visibility and awareness of pure maple syrup producers in the state of Ohio through events like the annual Maple Madness Tour, as well as supporting commercial maple producers. North America is the only place in the world that maple syrup is produced. Among the twelve maple-producing states in the US, Ohio is ranked 4th or 5th in maple production. The maple industry contributes over \$5 million to Ohio's economy each year.

For More Information

For more information, including driving directions to the Bissell Maple farm sugar house, visit www.bissellmaplefarm.com; contact sticky@bissellmaplefarm.com; or call 440-563-3263.

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