



Michael Harper

Sugarcane Grower

Cheneyville, Louisiana

Harper's family has been farming in Louisiana since right after the Civil War. He farms today with his father, Ross Harper; uncle, Jim Harper and cousin-in-law, Britton Schexnyder.

INTERESTING FACT

Harper's farm is among the most northern in the state, and the world, to grow sugarcane. That presents challenges with cold weather and means he must invest more to transport his crop to the nearest mill.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOUR COMMUNITY WITHOUT SUGARCANE?

"Now that just about every farm is starting to concentrate in sugarcane, this community would be no more. Everything that we've worked so hard to build, and the hard lessons that we've learned, I just couldn't imagine another way of life without this."

WHY DO YOU KEEP GROWING EVEN WITH ALL THE CHALLENGES IN SUGARCANE?

"As hard as it is, as risky as it is, I enjoy that challenge. And one way or another, we find a way to pull it off every single year. Through the hardest of circumstances, we find a way to get it done. We are survivors. But without a sugar policy, we will not survive."