



# Gert Hawkins

Sugarcane Grower

Bachelor, Louisiana

Hawkins runs the farm with her brother, George LaCour, and niece, Catherine.

## INTERESTING FACT

Many sugarcane farms are family businesses and the one Hawkins runs is no exception. She has a special bond with her brother. They are truly friends and use each other's strengths to run an efficient business.

## WHY IS SUGARCANE IMPORTANT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

"The people who are involved in sugarcane in our state in the sugar belt are very friendly. We're a very close-knit group. We are very attached. Good friends. We become friends. We help each other. It's an awesome industry. I guess in a way I say I'm rooted to the industry."

## WHAT DO YOU WANT CONGRESS TO KNOW ABOUT U.S. SUGAR POLICY?

"I would like Congress to know that our no-cost sugar program is very viable and it's very important. We want to keep our no-cost sugar program. It is the most important thing. And we realize we have lots of challenges ahead but that program keeps us going."