



Rita Herford

Sugarbeet Farmer

Minden City, Michigan

She farms with her mother, Debbie Gentner-Bischer; stepfather, Alan Bischer; brother Eric Gentner; and stepbrother, Bryce Bischer.

INTERESTING FACT

Herford's mother took over the family farm after her father died when she was very young. The decision has meant that Herford, and her siblings, have been able to continue to work the family's land.

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO SEE YOUR PRODUCT ON THE SHELF AT THE GROCERY STORE?

"I love being able to go to the grocery store and look on the shelf and say 'Hey that could have come straight from my farm.' It's just awesome to know I had a part in that. And Michigan Sugar, being a cooperative owned company, it's like I own part of that company."

WHAT DO YOU WANT CONGRESS TO KNOW ABOUT THE SUGAR POLICY IN THE FARM BILL?

"I just want Congress to know that us having a market where our sugarbeets can be sold and having a base price for us really means a lot. I don't know what our farm would look like without sugarbeets on it. I hope to never find out. And just to know that there is some stability there for us is reassuring and we need that."