



Von Medearis

Sugarbeet Farmer

Brawley, California

Medearis is a third-generation farmer and second-generation sugarbeet farmer that farms approximately 500 acres in California's Imperial Valley. More than half of his acres are dedicated to sugarbeets. On the remaining acres, he grows Durum wheat, alfalfa and orchard grass. Medearis the last member of his family that will farm the ground that has been part of the family's ranch since the mid 1950s.

INTERESTING FACT

Medearis' paternal grandfather, Elmer, ran oil drilling crews for J. Paul Getty in California before he began farming in the Imperial Valley.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY FARM?

"My grandfather passed away in the early the '70s. My dad passed away a year and a half ago and I just lost my mother about three months ago, so I'm running everything now. As far as farming goes, I'm the 'Last of the Mohicans' in my family, but I'm rolling on as best as I can."

WHY IS U.S. SUGAR POLICY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

"Farmers may be a very small percentage of the people in this country, but we feed the nation and the world. By taking away a program designed to help them compete on a level-playing field, you risk everything. And if you lose the American farmer, then you've lost it all."