



Rod Olson

Sugar Farmer

Red River Valley

Olson grew up on a tractor and knew from an early age he wanted to farm. After high school, instead of going to college like his sisters did, he stayed on the farm and helped his parents, Albert “Bobby” Olson and Judith Olson, get through the tough times in the 1980s.

HOW HAVE SUGARBEETS BEEN IMPORTANT TO YOUR FARM AND COMMUNITY?

“There’s been a lot more good times with sugarbeets than some of the other crops. The other crops have hurt us. And sugarbeets, to me without sugarbeets this farm wouldn’t be here.”

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE CONGRESS TO KNOW ABOUT THE SUGAR POLICY IN THE FARM BILL?

“It’s ironic to me that in the early 80s, when the first sugar provision was put in the farm program, the end users asked for it and helped to write it. And now, they are not paying any more for sugar than they did then.”