



Curt and Suzanne Rutherford

Sugarbeet Growers

Brawley, California

Curt Rutherford and his brother, Tom, farm some of the same land that their father and grandfather farmed. Suzanne Rutherford's family also farmed. She plays a major role in the business with her husband.

INTERESTING FACT

Rutherford's grandfather, Walter Lee Rutherford, moved to California in 1907 to help build the irrigation canals that would eventually bring Colorado River water to Valley farms. After helping to build the Mulberry Canal, he established the family farm.

ON FOREIGN SUBSIDIES AND THE COST OF SUGAR FOR U.S. CONSUMERS

"We always hear that sugar is so expensive for consumers, but sugar costs less for Americans than in other countries – and we don't heavily subsidize our farmers. When foreign governments subsidize their growers, we can't compete with that." – Suzanne Rutherford

"How can the sugar program be so expensive to the consumers of the United States under the current farm program that exists now if they give our product away for free in every coffee shop, fast food, and restaurant in the country?" – Curt Rutherford