



# Bobby Sparks

Sugarcane Grower

Mercedes, Texas

Sparks is a second-generation grower in the Rio Grande Valley. He runs the farm with his son.

## INTERESTING FACT

Sparks' farm is on the U.S-Mexican border. He has part of the border wall in his sugarcane field.

## HOW HAS SUGARCANE BEEN IMPORTANT TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

"It's been huge. I guess the sugar mill probably employs about 500 people. A lot of them are from our community. There's truck drivers and harvester drivers and people that work in the mill. It just provides a lot of jobs to the Rio Grande Valley. We hope it stays here. We really need sugar. Who can see into the future, but we hope it remains and stays here for a long time."

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

"We just need Congress to be on our side. Sometimes they look at other nations and what's going on with them and of course we need to provide trade with other countries, but we just want them to remember us when it comes to the sugar industry."