



Ardis Hammock

SUGARCANE GROWER, THIRD GENERATION
U.S. SUGAR

Glades County, Florida



The Hammock family has been growing sugarcane on their farm for nearly 90 years. Ardis currently farms with her husband, Alan, and son, Robert.

How would you describe your family farm?

"Farming with my family is the best job you can have. I don't think there's a better place for a boardroom meeting than the kitchen table that once belonged to my parents. Plus, my grandchildren live right next door. It's the greatest thing in the world to have them knock on the door for chocolate milk or ice cream."

Farming is an unpredictable business, at the mercy of Mother Nature. How do you manage unprecedented weather events?

"We experienced a devastating freeze in 2026. I've never seen temperatures this low for hours on end here at the farm. When our sugarcane began to decline rapidly due to the cold, U.S. Sugar came in and harvested it before it became unharvestable. But we still lost a lot of sugarcane new growth due to the freeze. A farmer must be both the biggest optimist and the biggest gambler in the world – Mother Nature is in charge, and nothing is ever the same."



Interesting Fact

Ardis serves as the president of the South Florida Agricultural Foundation, which works to increase public awareness of Florida's agricultural industries.

