



Chad Hanks

SUGARCANE GROWER, FOURTH GENERATION

Lafayette, Louisiana



Chad is a first-generation sugarcane grower and fourth-generation farmer. He harvested his first sugarcane crop in 1992.

You transitioned your farm from rice to sugarcane more than 30 years ago. What inspired that change?

"I started my sugarcane operation from ground zero. Sugar is a very sustainable crop and the lack of volatility in the domestic market most years was also enticing to me as a farmer. It ensures you're going to be able to pay your bills and move forward to the next year. That's why it's so important to have the continued support of U.S. sugar policy for when times are tough."

What is the number one thing that Congress should know about sugar?

"Lawmakers need to understand that American farmers can't compete with heavily subsidized foreign sugar that is being dumped on the world market. That's why we've been asking for updated over-quota sugar tariffs to defend our farms and stop the excess of over-quota imported sugar coming into the U.S."



Interesting Fact

Chad started his career as a grain merchant, trading the export market barges on the Mississippi River. In addition to growing sugarcane, he also raises crawfish!

