



Cooper Hopkins

SUGARCANE GROWER, FOURTH GENERATION
**SUGAR CANE GROWERS COOPERATIVE
OF FLORIDA**

Belle Glade, Florida



Cooper Hopkins is a fourth-generation sugarcane grower from Belle Glade, Florida.

What do you want people to know about what sugar means to Florida and the entire country?

"The sugar industry is the entire foundation of the Everglades. It's what everything revolves around. On a larger scale, people need to realize the food security that comes with the ability to domestically produce sugar. It's an important input for an affordable food supply, and we can't be relying on other countries for sugar."

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

"2026 has been a difficult, crazy year. On top of the freeze, we've seen floods, droughts, and everything in between. It affected yields for this year and will affect the quality of the cane stubble for next year. I am optimistic – farmers are resilient. Farming is cyclical; you have some bad years and good years. But this year has certainly been tough compared to other years."



Interesting Fact

Cooper's family has lived in Florida for seven generations!

