



Derek Orsenigo

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

Belle Glade, Florida



Derek grew up helping his dad on the farm and now farms full-time with his father in Belle Glade, Florida.

You're a second-generation grower. What inspired you to follow in your dad's footsteps? What does it mean to you to be carrying on this family tradition?

"It was an easy choice because it was in my blood. I always wanted to be like my dad and carry on his legacy. I grew up helping my dad farm on the weekends, and those are some of my favorite memories. I love being outside and harvesting crops; being out on the farm is very fulfilling to me."

Why does it matter that America can produce its own sugar?

"Food security is national security: it's important for us as a country not to be dependent on anyone else. We find a sense of safety and security in our food. When we have a solid and safe domestic food supply that is trustworthy and regulated, then we are doing what's best for our country and its citizens."



Interesting Fact

Derek wears his grandfather's wedding ring to pay tribute to his grandparents who were married for 57 years. Derek and his wife have been married for 15 years.

