



Garrett Stutzman

**SUGARBEET GROWER, FIFTH GENERATION
WESTERN SUGAR COOPERATIVE**

Powell, Wyoming



Garrett's family started growing sugarbeets in 1916. Five generations later, Garrett is continuing his family's farming legacy alongside his brother, John.

It's really important that younger growers have opportunities to succeed. What do you think are the most challenging aspects of being a young farmer?

"Input costs are so high right now, and there is a lot of trouble with weed control and diseases in crops as well. All of that makes it really hard to start farming on your own as a young person unless you're born into a farming family. I've got friends who would love to start their own farms, but from a financial standpoint, there's not enough money to be made to cover the startup costs. I think there is going to be a big issue coming our way if something doesn't change, because there won't be enough farmers around in the next 20-30 years."

Sugar prices have fallen dramatically in recent years, and margins in farming were already tight. Do growers in your region feel optimistic about the future of sugar production?

"There are always going to be ups and downs when it comes to farming, but this is by far the toughest it has been financially in a long time. I'm a part of the American Sugarbeet Growers Association and the growers who have been doing this for 20-30 years say these are the worst margins they've ever seen. I think the future is bright if we can get the right things done in D.C. to support farmers, but time is of the essence."



Interesting Fact

In addition to growing sugarbeets on his farm, Garrett also grows corn, barely, malt barley, alfalfa, and alfalfa for seed production.

