



Jilann Schlager

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

Longmont, Colorado



With her children joining her on the farm, Jilann's family has been growing sugarbeets for six generations, beginning with her ancestors who emigrated from Russia.

What part of your workday do you most look forward to?

"I love watching the sunrises and sunsets at the beginning and end of each day. It makes me feel connected to the earth and really grounds me. There's a serenity that comes into play while farming, even on a bad day. I always feel like we're making a difference in people's lives and that starts with the sunrise. We only get to be on this earth for a little bit and it's a blessing to be able to be a steward of the land."

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

"I think of all the birthday cakes, candy, cookies, and ice cream all of us have enjoyed over the course of our lives and that all starts with the sugarbeet seed. I would love to know that my children and grandchildren can continue to eat these foods with sugar that's produced right here in America. My ancestors came over from Russia and started planting sugarbeets, and we are continuing that legacy six generations later. That hits me right in my heart. Sugar is our livelihood. Keep it in America. Keep it growing. Keep it for generations to come."



Interesting Fact

Jilann is an author and is currently working on a baby book about sugarbeets!

