



Matt Hasbargen

**SUGARBEET GROWER, FOURTH GENERATION
MINN-DAK FARMERS COOPERATIVE**

Breckenridge, Minnesota



Matt Hasbargen is a fourth-generation sugarbeet grower from Minnesota.

How do you feel about passing the farm on to the next generation?

"Growing up on a farm means focusing on hard work, family, and community. I've had three generations in front of me working their tails off to build what it is today. Passing that on to the next generation is very meaningful to me, and I hope that opportunity doesn't go away anytime soon."

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?

"Farmers are the most optimistic people in the world. We put a seed in the ground every year and expect big things out of it. We are always optimistic that things will get better. And, right now, they need to get better. Our co-op just came off the worst financial year we've ever seen. With low prices and weather and disease hurting our crops, we're facing extremely high pressures. But we'll continue to be optimistic because we have to be."



Interesting Fact

Matt is a third-generation board member for the Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative. His grandfather, Warren, and his father, Michael, have also served on the board.

