



# Nate Hultgren

**SUGARBEET GROWER, THIRD GENERATION  
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA BEET SUGAR  
COOPERATIVE**

Raymond, Minnesota



Nate grew up on the farm his grandfather originally started in 1932 near Raymond, Minnesota, and has farmed alongside his family for over 25 years.

## **What would happen to your community without sugarbeets?**

"Sugarbeet production keeps our community running and provides countless jobs. Our community is a network of small railroad towns with about 500 to 1,000 people each. These towns provide support to the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative factory in Renville, Minnesota, which employs about 450 unionized workers. If that factory, which is the only factory in the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, closed, hundreds of people in the nearby towns would be out of jobs in addition to those who work in the factory."

## **What is something many people may not realize about farming?**

"A lot of people may not realize how many fewer resources we are using today to farm compared to 25 years ago. For instance, the amount of fertilizer it takes to produce a pound of sugar today is half what it was 25 years ago. The other elements of production – water, fuel, etc. – all those things have dropped in a similar way. Sustainability is so important to our farm's operations and to be able to pass the farm on to the next generation."



## **Interesting Fact**

Nate is a family man - he and his wife had five kids in six years!

