



Neil Rockstad

SUGARBEET GROWER, FIFTH GENERATION
AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR COMPANY

Ada, Minnesota



Neil is a third-generation sugarbeet grower and a fifth-generation farmer. He farms alongside his family in Ada, Minnesota.

Are your kids involved on the farm? What is the hope that you have for your daughters when it comes to a future in agriculture?

"I have two daughters growing up on the farm. They'll ride in the tractor, do the lawn mowing, and help around the yard. The older one, Nora, has driven a combine for two years and has done some of the field operations. My hope is that agriculture and sugarbeet production remain viable, and there remains an opportunity for our girls to farm."

Why is it important that DC advance trade policies to defend sugar producers?

"In the Red River Valley, agriculture is the backbone of the economy, which means it is the driving force of our communities, hospitals, churches, and small businesses. Having a vibrant sugarbeet industry means keeping our rural economies strong. For example, during sugarbeet harvest, we employ extra help to deliver the crops, run the tractors, and more. That creates short-term, but good-paying, part-time jobs that can help put Christmas presents under the tree or send a kid to college. We need policies that keep our farmers competitive so we can stay in business and support our communities."



Interesting Fact

Neil, his wife, and daughters raise miniature donkeys as pets.

