



Shane Strecker

SUGARBEET GROWER, FOURTH GENERATION
WESTERN SUGAR COOPERATIVE

Big Horn, Montana



Shane Strecker is a fourth-generation sugarbeet grower. He farms with his family in Big Horn, Montana.

How would you describe your family farm?

"It's the best. I farm with my dad, brother, uncle, sons, and nephew and we all get along very well. It's just a big family farm, and we all have a good time. I'm in charge of the sugarbeet operations and my brother is in charge of the other crops like barley. Of course, there are trials and tribulations along the way, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

Inflation and increased costs have hit farmers across the board – from diesel fuel to fertilizer to equipment. How have increased costs affected your farm?

"It's devastating. Last November, for example, we were buying fertilizer for \$650 to \$700 a ton. I bought fertilizer last week for just under \$1000 a ton – prices have gone up significantly. You keep trying to cinch the belt and cut corners here and there, but you still have to grow a crop. So, you're stuck. Something needs to change in a hurry, or it will affect our small community, our schools, everything."



Interesting Fact

Shane is an avid drum player. He started playing in 1974 and was a drummer in a band for 40 years!

