



Shelby Duplantis

SUGARCANE GROWER, SIXTH GENERATION
Franklin, Louisiana



Shelby is a sixth-generation sugarcane grower. She farms in Franklin, Louisiana, with her father and grandfather.

You didn't always want to farm - what brought you back?

"My dad brought me back. One day, when I was in college, my dad called and said he needed my help with some mapping. When I came to the farm, he showed me the new GPS tractor system he had put in place, which he was fascinated by. I was the only one who knew how to run it other than my dad. After I graduated from college, I started working here full time to help him out and never left. There's honestly no place I'd rather be working."

Why is sugar important to your community?

"Sugar is what makes us. We are in the sugar belt of Louisiana, so sugar is everywhere around us. If you're not in the field, then you're on another farm operation with sugarcane. In other places, you might grow other crops like soybeans or corn, but here all we have is sugarcane. It's a big part of our culture, too. New Iberia even has a sugarcane festival, which is the biggest festival in our area."



Interesting Fact

Shelby and her family competed on the TV show "Family Feud." They won two games!

